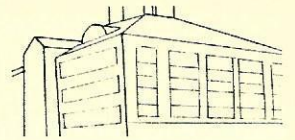




# Clinton County Trails

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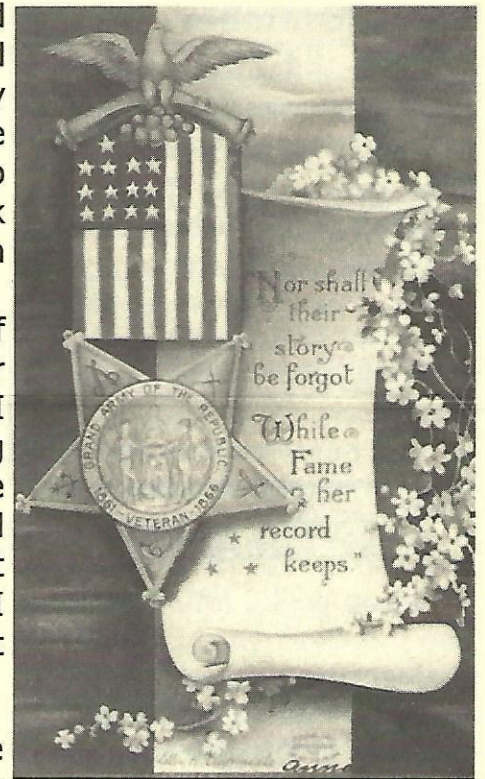
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## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> -- HAY DAY

Excerpted from two columns of a series which was written by Jeanne Temple. The series title was "The Cobweb," and it was published in the *Ovid Register* in the 1950's.

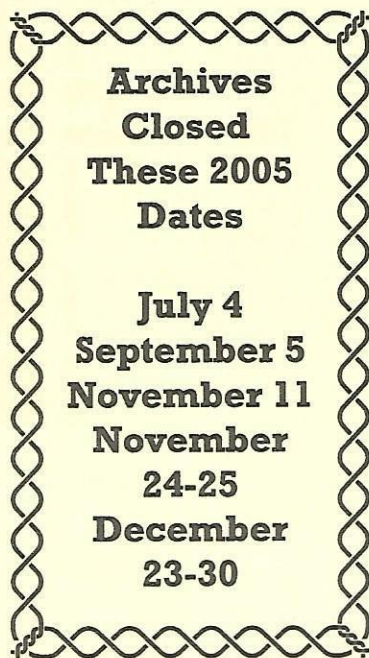
The Fourth of July is celebrated now in accordance with the rip and snort of our times. I don't have any memories of a Fourth myself. Since I can remember, it's been a day to get the hay in. These days I speak of were the "horse drawn wagon with loader following" ones. I can still see myself driving a hitch of three pulling the wagon and loader with Dad tending the loader. I stood on the standard, resting (that's a laugh) my elbows on the top bar while the tears streamed down my face. The imprint of that rack could be felt for days—I thought I'd be pulled right straight through.



Dad tells about the parade that would form at noon at the intersection to march to the cemetery [probably in Rochester Colony, Greenbush Twp.]. All the veterans would take part—one or two Mexican Campaigners, several Spanish American vets, and the largest company of Civil War heroes; and the Orders with the Sir Knights in full plume.

All the children, armed with a potted geranium, shuffled along, hemmed in by the more fortunate—those who owned a bicycle. Although no prizes were given, there was a strong feeling of contest to see just how much crepe paper or bunting one bike could hold.

The band was a marvel of ingenuity. If fortunate, all the caps and coats might match. No one was too old if he could still blow and



tongue, or too young it seemed. The repertoire was old; the tempo sturdy; the manner simple, but there wasn't a boy in town who didn't hope to thump the big bass drum. Monday, during school vacations, was the best time to practice. Boys always emptied mother's big round wash tubs. Any wonder tinsmiths were busy when the thumper used anything in sight for a drum stick?

Firecrackers were more dangerous than now. Explosives were crude; therefore, results were not easy to foretell. Grampa wanted to be certain Dad understood all the facets of safety involved: "Speed is essential; stand far enough away; don't monkey with one that seems to be out;" etc. In front of the house was a wooden hitching post. To illustrate a safe place to set off a fire cracker, Grampa chose a knothole about one third the way down the post. He lit it and, to illustrate speed, he dragged Dad back upon the porch. Seconds passed, seeming hours, when the most deafening roar ever heard on their street rose and died. When the smoke and dust had disappeared, so had the hitching post. They never even found the iron ring.

The horse-drawn pumper would appear polished and shining. The span drawing it would be combed, curried, and braided within an inch of their tails. The stack of the pumper was used as a vase sometimes. I don't know what they might have used except hollyhocks on the Fourth, but Dad does remember that for Labor Day there was always a huge sunflower nodding merrily from the top of the pumper.

## PRESIDENTS, SOLDIERS, STATESMEN (continued)

See Vol. 19, No. 1

**JAMES GIBSON** was born in Tompkins Co., N.Y., Dec. 7, 1830, and was a son of **Anson and Laura (Penny) Gibson**, deceased. He was married first Dec. 1873, to **Amanda A. Eldred**, who was a daughter of **Cooper and Mary (Lyons) Eldred**, deceased. He was married, secondly, Sept. 1, 1894, to **Isadore Birdsel**, who was a daughter of **Matthew R. {living} and Maria (Lee) Birdsel {deceased}**. When the war broke out our subject was 32 years old. He donned the blue and entered the service of his country April 22, 1862, at New York, as a private in Co. H, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Reg. Army Art. He participated in the engagements of Cornith, Boydstown, Pittsburg Landing, Stone River, Chickamauga, Buzzard Roost, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mt.; and he was honorably discharged April 1, 1865. He re-enlisted December 1865 in Co. I, 5<sup>th</sup> Cav. He was internally injured and was kept in hospital at Raleigh, N.C. for same. During this enlistment he was on the frontier taking part in numerous engagements with the Indians for three years. He was honorably discharged Dec. 1868. His present wife had two uncles in the service. Her grandfather settled in the county in its pioneer days and suffered heavy losses by fire. Her father, **Matthew Birdsel**, was a farmer when he enlisted in the Mexican War in Co. G, Huron Cass Guards Art. He was detailed as a cook for his company. He was stricken with a cold from exposure and was treated in hospital for same about three weeks. His company was ordered to Montermay but did not arrive in time. He was honorably discharged July 1848. On his way home the stage was overturned and he sustained a broken arm. Comrade Gibson is a farmer by occupation and his address is DeWitt, Mich.

**MARTIN C. GITCHELL** was born in New York May 7, 1844, and was a son of **Cyrus and Anna (Parker) Gitchell**, neither of whom are living. His wife, **Jane Eaton**, is of Calhoun, Mich., and they were married in Kent Co. in 1868. She was born Sept. 21, 1831, a daughter of **Calvin and Sally (Welch) Eaton**, no longer numbered with the living. Two children have blessed this marriage, **Arthur A. and Lena E.** Comrade Gitchell was engaged in farming when the war broke out. He served throughout the war and at the close of hostilities held the rank of Corp. He was enrolled Aug. 7, 1862, in Co. A, 130 NY V.I. May 7, 1864, he was wounded at Wilderness by gunshot in right arm. For this wound he received treatment at Chestnut Hill Hospital three weeks and Camp Stoneman or four weeks. June 1863 he was given a furlough of thirty days. Aug. 1, 1864, he was transferred at Washington, D.C., to 23 Batl. He fought at Deserted Farm, Siege of Suffolk, Wilderness, and several skirmishes. He was honorably discharged June 26, 1865, at Washington, D.C. He had three brothers in service: **Morris** died from disease in service; **Earl** was wounded; and **William**. His wife's father fought in the War of 1812. Comrade Gitchell is a pensioner. He is a farmer by occupation and he may be addressed at Ovid, Mich.

**WILLIAM H. GOODRICH**, whose life has been one of continuous activity, was born in New York state, June 26, 1846, a son of **Henry and Nancy M. (Collister) Goodrich**, deceased. He united his fortunes for life, May 14, 1871, in Bath, Mich., with **Emma A. Clise**, who was born in Clyde, N.Y., Nov. 7, 1855; her parents, **Frederick and Margaret Clise** are still spared. As the fruit of this marriage, four children were born: **Arthur L., Bernice E., Blanch J., and Henry L.** The latter died Dec. 14, 1896. When "war's grim visaged front" appeared upon the horizon of the nation, our subject was engaged in farming. The stirring events of the occasion fired the patriotic heart of our subject to tender his services to the nation's cause, being enrolled Feb. 8, 1864, at the age of 17 years as a private in Co. B, 2 U.S.S.S. 3d Brig., 3d Div., 2 A.C. May 11, 1864, at the Battle of Spottsylvania, he received a gunshot wound in head. Four days later he was taken to hospital at Baltimore where he was treated four weeks. June 23, 1864, he was again wounded in arm at Petersburg and was confined in hospital for five months at Alexandria, Va. In the fall of 1864 he was furloughed for thirty days to come home to vote at 18 years of age and returned to Petersburg at end of time. In the spring of 1865 he was transferred to Co. C, 5<sup>th</sup> Mich. V.I. 2d U.S.S.S. He was detailed several times to act as scout for his Regt. Not until the war ended did he return to his home taking part in the battles of his Regt., exhibiting the splendid courage of the brave soldier at Brandy Station, Locust Grove, Mine Run, Wilderness, Todds Tavern, Po River, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Weldon R.R., Petersburg, Five Forks, Amelia C.H., High Bridge, and Appomattox C.H. Comrade Goodrich had many hair-breadth escapes. Twice he was driven out of trees while doing scout duty by the rebels and barely escaped Old Mosby's guerillas, but he could out-run any rebel in the Southern Confederacy and was a sure-shot with the rifle. He was granted an honorable discharge July 5, 1865, at Jeffersonville, Ind. His grandfather **Collister** served in the Mexican War. Comrade Goodrich is a popular official being constable. He also served as sexton of cemetery three years. He was formerly a G.A.R. member and was commander and quartermaster. His address is Bath, Mich.

**THOMAS H. GREEN**, a native of England, was born Apr. 12, 1836, and came to this country when 10 years with his parents, **William and Rachel (Clark) Green**, who have passed from life. Oct. 20, 1861, in Clinton Co., Mich., he was married to **Martha L. Wellington**, and their hearthstone has been graced with three children: **Luis F., William, and Frederick C.** His wife was born in Troy, N.Y., a daughter of **Elbridge and Laurinda Wellington**, now deceased. During the civil War, our subject's patriotism was shown in all loyal directions. He had been engaged in farming when he was enrolled Aug. 1862, at Bengel, Mich., when 27 years of age, as a private in Co. A., 23d Mich. V.I. In 1862 he was treated in hospital at Bowling Green, Ky., about three months on account of general disability. He was transferred in 1863 to Co. J, 23d Mich. V.I. in 1862 he was detailed to guard prisoners at

Louisville and spent two weeks in this way. He was granted his honorable discharge Mar 1863 at Bowling Green, Ky. His brother, **Clark**, and three brothers of his wife, **Isaac, Elbridge, and Daniel**, all served in the Union army. Comrade Green has a pension. He is living a retired life and his address is St. Johns, Mich.

**LEVI HAAS** was born at Fishers Ferry, Pa., Nov. 16, 1840, and took up his residence in Clinton Co., Mich., in 1893. His helpmate on life's journey was **Lucinda Borton**, the nuptial knot being tied Nov. 14, 1867, in Morenci, Mich. She was born in Portage Co., Ohio., Feb. 25, 1845, a daughter of **Ezra and Ann (Brown) Borton**. The former is still spared. By this marriage there are ten children, their births occurring in the order named: **Martha A., Cora O., Charles S., Allen C., Benjamin B., Bina M., Minnie E., Eva J., Landis G., and Luella E.** At the age of 20, like many other boys of his country, he responded to the president's call for troops to put down the rebellion. He had been engaged in farming when he was enrolled June 15, 1861, as a private in Co. B, 6<sup>th</sup> PA. Res., 3d Brig., 3d Div., 5th A.C. Dec. 13, 1862, he was wounded by gunshot in thigh at Fredericksburg. He was taken prisoner and held until captured by Union forces three days later. He was treated in field hospital there and was then transferred to Washington four months for wound in right thigh. He was also wounded in knee at Wilderness for which he received hospital treatment at Philadelphia three months. His battle list includes some hard-fought fields: Drainsville, Fredericksburg, Wilderness, New Hope Church, 2d Bull Run, Spottsylvania, Laurel Hill, Fraziers Farm, and Mine Run. He was honorably discharged June 24, 1864, at Harrisburg, Pa. His wife's brother, **Joseph**, served in an Ohio Regt. Comrade Haas is a member of Moses Wisner Post, 101. He is a farmer and his address in Maple Rapids, Mich.

**SMITH HALL**, whose parents, **Samuel and Gemima Smith**, have gone to their reward, was born in Orange Co., N.Y., Oct. 7, 1845. His wife is **Mary**, daughter of John and Amy (Parlament) Morgan. The former only is living, aged 82 years. She was born in Orange Co., N.Y., Sept. 4, 1848, and they were married June 26, 1875, in DeWitt, Mich., Rev. W. J. Swift officiating. Their family consists of three children: **Howard L.** (issue of their marriage); **T. L. Fitz** (his wife's child by a former marriage); and **Marvel M.** (an adopted child). Comrade Hall enlisted Dec. 3, 1861, at the age of 19 years and rendered some important service during that trying time. He entered the ranks of Co. E, 30 Mich. V.I. as a private. He was ill twice in the service but did not enter hospital, being treated in camp. In April 1865 he was granted a leave of absence of six days. He did not take part in any battles as his services consisted in scouting, skirmishing, guard, and garrison duty. He was honorably discharged at Detroit, Mich., June 1865. His brother, **Miles Hall**, served in Co. B, 3 Mich. Cav., and died in hospital at St. Louis, Mo. His father was captain of New York State Guards. His wife's brother, **William** served in 24 Mich. V.I., and died from disability in service. Comrade Hall is a member of G.A.R. Post. He is a wagon maker by occupation and his address is DeWitt, Mich.

**JAMES M. HATH** **Sanburn and Emily (Hooker) Hath**, deceased, are the parents of our subject who was born in Brockport, N.Y., Mar. 31, 1833. He came to Clinton Co., Mich., in 1857, and was wedded Aug. 8, 1858, at Bath, to **Lovenia Purdy**, who was born in Shiawassee Co., Mich., June 20, 1839. Her father, **Josiah Purdy** is dec., as is also her mother, **Diantha (Hartwell)**. They have reared eight children: **Francis (married Maggie Kelley); Louella; Edward (married Jennie Leech); Helen; Andrew; Elmina (married Fred E. Smith and they have one child); Herbert; and Elna.** Comrade Hath was among the veterans of the late war, having enlisted Feb. 1864 when 33 years old, as a private in Co. D, 6<sup>th</sup> Mich. Cav., 1<sup>st</sup> Brig., 1<sup>st</sup> Div., 1<sup>st</sup> C.C. and was not mustered out till the close of the war. His record for distinguished bravery and good service in the field was one of which to be proud. In 1865 he was confined in hospital at St. Louis for seven weeks. Prior to this, in the summer of 1864, he was detailed as escort to Gen. Sheridan three days. He took part in several of the most decisive battles of the war: Travillian Station, Smithfield, Wilderness, Po River, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Deep Bottom, Ream Station, Petersburg, and several others. He was honorably discharged July 1865 at St. Louis, Mo. He had four brothers in the late

war: **Sanburn, Andrew, Reuben, and Jerome.** His grandfather served in the Rev. War and his father in the War of 1812. His wife's brother, **Francis** served in Co. I, 23 Mich. V.I. and was wounded by fragment of shell. Comrade Hath is a member of Anderson Post 58. He is a farmer by occupation and his address is DeWitt, Mich.

**CHARLES E. HAVILAND** was born in Livingston, Mich., Apr. 1, 1840, of parents **Jacob and Rebecca (Coruell) Haviland**, no longer living. His wife, to whom he was married July 4, 1860, in Bath, Mich., bore the maiden name of **Sarah Drumbeller**. She was born in Wood Co., O., Sept. 10, 1852, a daughter of **Jacob D. and Sarah J. Coruell Drumbeller**. The former is still spared; the latter is deceased. Nine children have graced this union, born in the order here names: **William S., Brandt C., Jacob D., Cornelius E., Jennie V., Thomas J., Louis C., Luther K., and Jennie.** During the war Comrade Haviland served in the Federal army. He had been engaged in farming when he was enrolled Sept. 22, 1862, as a private in Co. D 6 Mich. Cav., 3 Brig., 2 Div. He was detailed to act as dispatch bearer for two weeks. He was wounded by spent ball in the leg. He was also injured by his mule falling on him which had been shot. For the injury he was confined in hospital for six weeks. He was also stricken with typhoid fever and after his recovery was twice furloughed. He was also detailed to accompany the remains of Capt. David G. Boyce, who had been killed in action. He took part in several desperate battles: Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge, McAfee's Cross Roads, Fair Oaks, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Gettysburg, and several others, receiving an honorable discharge Nov. 24, 1865, at Ft. Leavenworth, Ky. His brother **Cornelius** also served and was killed in action. His wife's father served in the Mexican War. Her brother served in Co. E, O.V.I. Comrade Haviland is a farmer near Bath, Mich.

**THEODORE HEILER.** **George and Mary J. Heiler**, dec., are the parents of our subject who was born Jan. 14, 1833, in Germany. He married **Apolonia Kreimer**, daughter of **Daniel and Mary J. (Miller) Kreimer**, deceased. This marriage was solemnized Feb. 25, 1854, at the home and birthplace of his wife in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Heiler are the parents of seven children: **Charles** (married **Rosa Wasanett** and they have seven children); **Frank J.** (married **Hattie Pike**); **Mike V., Mary J., George C., Daniel W., and Minnie.** Comrade Heiler served a short time in the Union army during the late war. He had been engaged in farming and was 30 years of age when he was enrolled Mar. 2, 1865, as a private in Co. I, 24 Mich. V.I. June 10, 1865, he was granted a leave of absence of five days and returned to Springfield, Ill., at expiration of time. Owing to his late enlistment he did not take part in any regular battles but was placed on guard duty. He was honorably discharged June 13, 1865, at Detroit, Mich. His wife's brother **Martin** served in the Union army during the late war. Comrade Heiler is a member of Geo. W. Anderson Post 58 and his post office address is DeWitt, Mich., near which place his sons are at present successfully engaged in farming.

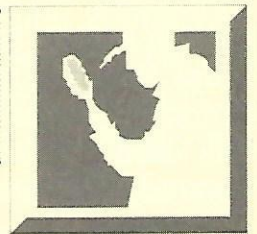
**HIRAM HELMS**, whose parents, **Daniel & Martha (Warner) Helms**, are deceased, was born in Ontario Co., NY., March 1, 1832. He was married first to **Elisa A. Glover** who was born in Livingston Co., Mich., in 1842. They were married in Feb. 1848, and three children were born to them: **Esedora, Mary E., and Hiram.** He was married secondly, July 1, 1895, in Maple Rapids, Mich., to **Maria Tyler** who was born May 17, 1841 in Monroe Co., N.Y. She was a daughter of **Ebenezer and Alzina (Wimon) Tyler**, deceased. She was formerly married to **Geo. Threehouse** by whom she had five children, as follows: **Ina, William, Frances E., John E., and Hattie M.** Comrade Helms was engaged in farming when the war broke out. Oct. 3, 1864, he donned the blue and entered the services of his country. He joined Co. A, 23 Mich. V.I., 3 Brig., 14<sup>th</sup> A.C. At the Battle of Franklin he was wounded by bayonet through left arm, but did not enter hospital. Feb. 3, 1865, he was forced to seek hospital rest and care for six weeks, suffering from chronic diarrhea. He was to the front in the following battles: Franklin and Nashville; and was honorably discharged March 28, 1865, at Washington D.C. His brother **Jep** served in 11 Mich. Cav. His grandfather Helms served in the Rev. War. Two brothers, **Samuel and Peter**, served in the Mexican War. His wife's father served in the War of 1812, and two brothers, **Oliver and John**, served in the N.Y. Regts. During the late war.

Comrade Helms has been deputy sheriff two years. He belongs to Billy Begole Post 127. He is unable to work and his address is Maple Rapids, Mich.

**RALPH W. HOLLEY** was born in New York City, Oct. 17, 1828, and was a son of **David and Catherine (Longcare) Holley**, deceased. He has been married three times. He was married, first, Oct. 15, 1851, in Washtenaw Co., Mich., to **Sarah A. Comstock** who was born Jan. 1, 1851. By his second wife, **Margaret Nailor**, he has these children: **Viola, Delbert, Charles, Mary E., Myron, and Ernest**. The maiden name of his present wife was **Margaret Briggs**. Comrade Holley was engaged in farming when he decided to fight for the preservation of his country. He was enrolled Jan. 29, 1862, at Olive, Mich., when 33 years of age as a private in Co. E, 1st Mich. Art. Jan. 29, 1864, he was furloughed for thirty days and reported for duty at end of time. He was honorably discharged July 28, 1864, to re-enlist as a veteran in same command. He took part in all the engagements of his command and was honorably discharged July 30, 1865, at Jackson, Mich. He had two half-brothers in service: **George and James Brokew**. His wife's brother, **John Briggs**, also served. His present wife's first husband died in Andersonville Prison. Comrade Holley is a member of Anderson Post 58 and his wife belongs to Anderson W.R.C. He has been J.P. for three years. He is by occupation a farmer and his address is DeWitt, Mich.

## Clinton County Murders

(Sixth and final part a series)  
By Wayne Summers



Over the past year and a half I have relived with you some murders from Clinton County's past. I began this journey into the darker side of history two years ago while thinking about a former student of mine who had met a premature end.

My memories of Robert Shane Rathburn are of a friendly, well mannered boy in my sixth grade classroom. He was a young man who, while in high school, so impressed a fellow teacher that she named her son, Shane, after him. As an adult he moved to St. Johns and was killed after leaving a bar. One of the saddest parts of being a teacher is reading the obituary of a former student whose life was cut short.

Through the county's history there have been many others who have met a quick, violent end. Some have been highlighted in past articles while others including Thomas Dunn, Ben Gutto, John Haker, E. G. Kellogg, and Jeremiah F. Stephens will need to wait for another time to have their story told. While most of these crimes were solved, others have lingered with the guilty party never brought to justice.

In Lot 369 of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Bath lies the small, battered body of two year old Kelly Pappan. Kelly had recently been returned to the custody of her parents from foster care. Kelly's mother reported that on November 9, 1965, she returned home from work, placed Kelly in a high chair, and gave her a hot dog. While generally in good health, she said their daughter had been complaining of stomach pains during the last week. After taking a single bite, Kelly fell from the high chair without crying. A short time later the mother took her to the Memorial Hospital in Owosso where she was dead on arrival.

The autopsy report revealed multiple bruises on the head and one on the groin which appeared to be superficial and several days old. However, the cause of death was a blow to the abdomen hard enough to sever her pancreas and cause internal bleeding.

While the father was the prime suspect, the coroner's inquest jury could only determine death had been caused by "a blow heavy enough to damage internal organs administered by a person or persons unknown."

Kelly's case remains open, however, her grave will no longer be unmarked. Her former foster mother has made arrangements to place a marker on the grave of the child who was her bubbly, loving daughter for a brief time.

While the details of these crimes can be gruesome, let's not forget that the lives of the victims were not defined by the end. Kelly's foster mother sent me several pictures of her taken while she was in her care. Looking at the pictures I see an innocent, happy girl with what appeared to be a bright future. Likewise, my memories of Shane will always be frozen in that moment in time when he was an 11 year old boy running, smiling, and acting a little bit embarrassed in the presence of girls.

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

In the March 2005 issue we spoke of street names in St. Johns and that many were named for the founders of our city. John Swegles, Jr., was not only one of the founders, but for whom our city was named!

In 1853, when land was to be purchased for a city, Michigan had large tracts of productive land with plentiful water and minimum of stone and rocks. Indian uprisings were past, transportation from the East was good and migration was heavy.

The location of this soon to be city was determined by the route laid out for the Detroit-Milwaukee Railroad. Robert Higham, the representative of the Railroad, was to choose the point for a station between Ionia and Owosso, both flourishing settlements. Closeness to Lansing was essential, as the recent move of the capital from Detroit to Lansing had no railroad facilities.

Four men in the state government took advantage of their advanced knowledge. They were John Swegles, Auditor General; Porter Kibbee, Commissioner Land Office; Bernard C. Whittemore, State Treasurer; and Henry S. Mead, Deputy Attorney General. They knew Robert Higham, the official for the railroad and they met Charles Dibble, a Detroit man, with money to invest. They joined the group to aid in their Company.

Swegles was commissioned to take a trip over to Clinton County and buy land for their town. He chose 80 acres in the W half of the SW quarter of Section 9 of Bingham Township. Only one acre was cleared,

of forest and marsh that was owned by George Washington Estes. Estes was already a farmer and postmaster of a post office called Bingham, located on Townsend Road.

Now we need a name for our Village. The Company trying "ville" at the end of each of their names, but could not come to any conclusion. Someone said, "Let's name it after our Saint, St. John." Without a doubt Swegles did the most for St. Johns, the purchasing, surveying and laying out the town, even a square, for someday moving the county seat from DeWitt to St. Johns. Swegles first name, John, became our village name, St. Johns.

Estes moved to the site of the proposed village, taking the post office with him (in a cigar box). He built a house on the Northeast corner, present-day State St. and Clinton Ave. (State St. was then called Ionia St.) Estes also started an inn in his house, which he called the Clinton House. Swegles having built a store and a sawmill, the embryo village was started the summer of 1854. Estes was directed the job of hiring a crew, chopping and clearing of the forest, the remaining 79 acres.

John Swegles bought more land including the South half of Section 9 and most of Section 16. In all the Company purchased 920 acres. The land was bought in 1853 and by 1856 the town had grown and St. Johns was platted, March 25th, the same year. The first train actually arrive in January of 1857 and a post office was established with the name St. Johns in 1858.

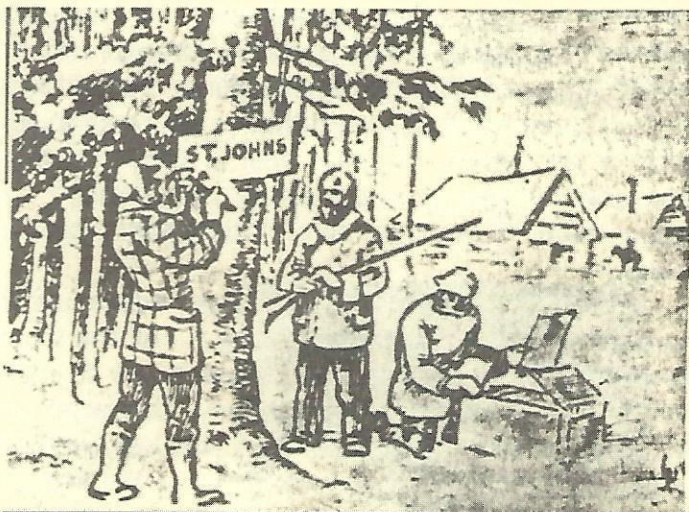
In 1860, after some controversy, the County Seat was moved from DeWitt to St. Johns and with it came a newspaper, the Clinton County Republican, and a printing shop.

John Swegles died in 1861 in the village for whom it was named, St. Johns and a street names Swegles. We also have streets named for Kibbee, Whittemore, Mead, Higham and Dibble. Dibble Street is now Park St., when the city acquired the Emmons Woods for the City Park.

***ST. JOHNS IS CELEBRATING IT'S SESQUICENTENNIAL IN 2006***



JOHN SWEGLES



# Anderson, the Innovator

There is in the township of Dallas a country school that is being conducted on original lines and is certainly worthy of notice. It is entirely the result of the efforts of the teacher, George W. Anderson. The following are a few of the distinctive features of Mr. Anderson's school work of which we speak:

First, "individual preparation." This work consists of nine different pieces, such as buying and sharpening pencils, washing slates, dusting desks, bottle filled with water, ruler, picking up, etc. Each pupil has his particular kind of work to do as soon as he arrives both morning and noon. The various kinds of work are arranged in a logical order on a slip of paper, called preparation sheets. These sheets are drawn up by pupils themselves and no little skill is displayed in lettering and ruling. This preparation sheet is original with Mr. Anderson and is only one of his many inventions. "It does away with the menacing habit that pupils have of asking for pencils, knives, books, etc., immediately after school calls, nor can they be deprived of their use," [Mr. Anderson explained].

The first, second and third reading classes were called, the former being preceded by a drill in diacritical marking, called "sound drill." Mr. Anderson stated that these sound drills were continued until the pupils were ready for the third reader and would from there on pronounce any word that would occur in that book or the fourth. A great deal of time that must now be taken up correcting the defect in pronunciation of the third and fourth grades would be saved.

The next class was the fourth reader which gave an exhibit in "business reading." All the words they correctly pronounce are considered as so many dollars. They made and lost money, borrowed and had interest to pay, expense, gain and loss accounts and promissory notes were also some of the features of this kind of reading. To get up a method by which the principles of business can be taught from a mere reading lesson is novel.

The next class to take the floor was one in figures called, the "lightening calculators," consisting of little girls whose ages range from 7 to 9 years, their work being in combinations below ten. Mr. Anderson said, "I will show you what they can do in

addition and subtraction." He placed upon the board a row of eight's with a row of miscellaneous digits underneath, and each one would the step to the board and write the answers as fast as they were erased. They also ran races at the board in figure making and on slates.

Next on the program were the writing classes and the methods employed. The classes in the lower grades are taught by a check system, while in the higher grades they have daily drills in muscular movement with now and then a lesson in material and letter construction. The first reader criticized a specimen of writing that was placed on the board in which they said that this letter was "tipping over" and that one was "shut" and had horns, hooks and tails. Another pupil spoke about the "pipe" in capital "k" and pointed to the "ice tongs." Many other letters were criticized in a similar manner, each letter being especially characterized by some object in nature. In writing, as well as in other subjects, Mr. Anderson seems to have struck a keynote in teaching.

Mr. Anderson, not only holds a good grade of certificate, but he is an expert performer on different musical instruments and can compose as well. In penmanship he is in the professional rank, his work being recognized in two of the leading journals in the United States. As a proof of what Mr. Anderson knows about writing, he was invited during the recent year to demonstrate before the Penman's Convention which convened at Chicago. He has also made a number of scientific demonstrations: one, that memory is the natural consequence of an organic development and that when a thing is once learned it cannot be forgotten. His arguments on the degeneration of man and the materialization of thought into solids are equally interesting.

The following is a list of pupils who are now receiving the advantages of Mr. Anderson's instruction: **Louisie George, Norma Klee, Herman Miller, Emma Tagt, Robert Klee, Lawrence Miller, Polly George, Lewis Miller, Bano Werner, Irene Myers, Charles Sillmann, Bertha Simon, Albert Werner, Frank Goodman, Lewis Webber, Truman Yuncker, Tilla Shafer, Emma Halfmann, Minnie Sillmann, and Alvera Castner.**

*(Edited from St. Johns News, 18 Feb 1897)*



## TWO EARLY EDUCATORS

**SETH HUNT**, for the last 57 years a resident of Bingham Twp., passed away Sat. morning at the home of his daughter, **Mrs. Ross Brooks**. He had been in ill health for several years owing to his advanced age of 85. According to his request, funeral services were held at the house Sunday, **Rev. Aldinger** of the Universalist Church of Lansing, officiating.

Seth Hunt was born in Whitehall, Washington Co., NY, in 1829. His father was born near Mt. Tom, MA, in 1800. He died at age 75. The mother of Seth Hunt, who died at age 40, was of Revolutionary stock. Her father served in the War of 1812, and his brother, who was several years older and who lived with her father, was a cripple for life occasioned by chains upon his limbs used to confine him on board a British prison ship in NY harbor. He, together with two comrades, managed to escape. After various hardships and several close chances of being retaken, they got through the skimmer of neutral ground and joined their friends of the American army.

Seth Hunt, for several years in company with his brothers, **Wesley** and **John**, peddled goods in the towns bordering on Lake Champlain. He also taught school in Putnam, Ticonderoga, and the village of Moriah, NY. In 1855 he went to Iowa and stayed about 18 months during which time he taught two schools--one at Richmond and one at Washington. Returning to Moriah, he married **Amelia Conn** and in the spring of 1857 moved with her and her father's family to St. Johns, MI, where he has since resided.

His business here, with the exception of teaching 6 terms of school and serving as town treasurer for 2 years, has been working at the carpenter trade. He helped build the first school house in St. Johns and taught the first school kept in that house. Assisted by **Miss Brown**, he taught the succeeding winter term. The number of pupils the first term was 60 & of the second 120.

His wife died in 1899. They had four children: **Adna, Dora, Nellie, and Ida**, of whom two, Adna and Nellie, are still living. Of the ten children composing his father's family, there are two brothers left, **William F.** of MO and **Smith A.** of Fowler, MI.

(edited from *Clinton Republican*; 8 Oct 1914)

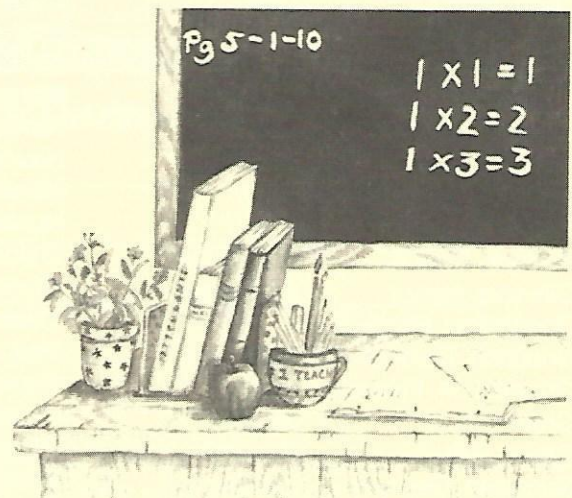
**GEORGE W. ANDERSON** was born near Maple Rapids on May 12, 1867, and departed this life May 8, 1936. His parents were **Robert and Sarah Anderson**. His mother died on Sept. 15, 1872, when he was 5 years of age. His father died in 1926.

Mr. Anderson attended school in Maple Rapids and taught in several of the rural schools of the county. Then he went to Ferris Institute at Big Rapids and was trained for a commercial teacher. He taught in Michigan City, also in Butte, MT.

After many years of teaching he returned to Maple Rapids and made his home with his father. He possessed a keen mind and was greatly skilled as a penman and also in free-hand drawing. One of his chief interests was music.

Funeral services were conducted by **Rev. I.E. Dull** at Abbot's Funeral Home, Sunday afternoon, with burial in the Sowles Cemetery.

(*Clinton Co. Republican-News*, 14 May 1936)



# Licensed Teachers --- 1897-1898

The following is a list of persons licensed to teach in Clinton County from July 1, 1897 to July 1, 1898, as printed in the St. Johns News; 22 July 1898

| Name                  | Address       | Harvey, Clara     | St. Johns    | Pray, Milo          | Eureka        |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Able, Eva             | Bath          | Harvey, Emma J.   | St. Johns    | Pulfrey, Gertrude   | St. Johns     |
| Ackley, Eva           | St. Johns     | Hathaway, Glen R. | St. Johns    | Randall, Mattie B.  | Lansing       |
| Allen, Maud           | Grand Ledge   | Haviland, Rachel  | Bath         | Reeb, Lena          | St. Johns     |
| Anderson, George      | Maple Rapids  | Hess, Anna        | Elsie        | Rice, Ray D.        | Maple Rapids  |
| Anderson, Libbie      | Maple Rapids  | Hess, Barbara     | Elsie        | Risley, Robert      | St. Johns     |
| Banta, Mabel          | Hubbardston   | Hibbard, Flora G. | Laingsburg   | Rose, Ruth L.       | Wacousta      |
| Barrett, Maud         | Geary         | Hibbard, Hila     | Laingsburg   | Ryan, Anna          | St. Johns     |
| Barrett, Myrtie       | Union Home    | Holbrook, Fred W. | Hubbardston  | Sanford, Ida        | Wacousta      |
| Barrington, Minnie    | St. Johns     | Holmes, George    | Matherton    | Scott, Sara         | Duplain       |
| Bennett, Mary         |               | Howe, Grace       | S Riley      | Seibert, Amelia     | St. Johns     |
| Boyle, Kate           | Union Home    | Hubble, Iva       | Maple Rapids | Severance, Mabel    | St. Johns     |
| Brandt, George R.     | Wayne         | Huntoon, Eva L.   | Ovid         | Sevey, Glenn        | St. Johns     |
| Bromley, Brownie      | St. Johns     | Jacob, Lena       | St. Johns    | Sibley, Lina        | DeWitt        |
| Bross, Decatur        | St. Johns     | Jeffers, Alfred   | St. Johns    | Sibley, Sadie       | DeWitt        |
| Brown, Bertha M.      | Elsie         | Johnson, Grace    | -            | Simmons, Minnie     | Ovid          |
| Burk, Edgar           | Eureka        | Kelly, Margaret   | St. Johns    | Skinner, M.G.       | Maple Rapids  |
| Burk, Walter          | Eureka        | Ketcham, Anna L.  | St. Johns    | Skinner, O.H.       | Maple Rapids  |
| Burnes, P.A.          | Wacousta      | Kincaid, A.B.     | Wacousta     | Smith, Celia C.     | St. Johns     |
| Carland, Katherine    | St. Johns     | Kinney, Bertha    | N Lansing    | Smith, Ella M.      | Bath          |
| Carter, George L.     | Elsie         | Kinney, Hattie    | N Lansing    | Smith, Elsie        | Rew           |
| Chapin, Leora         | Victor        | Knight, Ernest    | Elsie        | Smith, George J.    | Bath          |
| Clark, Maud           | -             | Kyes, May         | Ovid         | Smith, Richard      | Rew           |
| Cleland, Lylle        | St. Johns     | Lake, John A.     | Fowler       | Smith, Robert C.    | Laingsburg    |
| Clise, Watt L.        | Bath          | Lake, Ota         | St. Johns    | Smith, S.E.R.       | Ovid          |
| Cochrane, Ada J.      | St. Johns     | Lattimer, Maud    | Price        | Sperry, Flora       | St. Johns     |
| Conklin, Inez         | Maple Rapids  | LeBarron, Ota     | St. Johns    | Stampfly, Mina      | Shepardsville |
| Copeland, Cordelia    | Ovid          | Leddick, Emmerson | -            | Stone, J.B.         | DeWitt        |
| Cowles, Austin        | Maple Rapids  | Lee, Jewell       | Laingsburg   | Swan, Eldah A.      | St. Johns     |
| Cox, James A.         | Shepardsville | Lowell, Lillian   | Delta        | Throop, Althea      | Delta         |
| Crowner, Mina         | Maple Rapids  | Lyon, Hattie      | St. Johns    | Throop, Annie       | St. Johns     |
| Cutler, Marcus D.     | S Riley       | Lyon, Sarah E.    | Union Home   | Townsend, Alfred    | Wacousta      |
| Darwin, Norton        | Duplain       | Mahar, Mabel      | Fowler       | Townsend, T.H.      | St. Johns     |
| Dravenstatt, Lizzie   | Eagle         | Martin, Josephine | Fowler       | Tows, Millie A.     | St. Johns     |
| Dyke, Mary E.         | Wacousta      | McDonald, Grace   | St. Johns    | Travis, Loa         | St. Johns     |
| Eaton, Ella M.        | St. Johns     | McDowell, Mayme   | Ovid         | Trumble, Madge      | Bath          |
| Eddy, W.S.            | Eagle         | McHenry, Isabelle | N Lansing    | Tyler, George       | Bath          |
| Eldridge, Fred L.     | Fowler        | Mead, Gertrude    | St. Johns    | VanBerger, Myra     | Price         |
| Finch, Kate           | Elsie         | Mogg, Josephine   | Duplain      | VanBerger, Ora      | Price         |
| Fisher, Clara         | Ovid          | Monroe, J.G.      | St. Johns    | VanDeventer, E.G.   | Elsie         |
| Fleagle, Edward       | St. Johns     | Morrison, Belle   | Ovid         | Waldron, Edward     | Wacousta      |
| Fleagle, Ella         | St. Johns     | Morse, Maud       | Elsie        | Waldron, John H.    | Wacousta      |
| Fleming, Mae          | Elsie         | Naracon, Fannie   | DeWitt       | Walter, Florence    | St. Johns     |
| Fowler, Leah I.       | St. Johns     | Naumes, Margaret  | Westphalia   | Waltz, Zora         | Elsie         |
| Gallagher, Alice A.   | Riley         | Nelson, Mildred   | Bath         | Waring, Lillie E.   | Elsie         |
| Gallagher, P.L.       | Riley         | Nunter, Nora      | Ovid         | Warner, W.E.        | Maple Rapids  |
| Garlock, Cora B.      | Wacousta      | O'Brien, Mary     | Hubbardston  | Water, Alice M.     | Fowler        |
| Gillespie, Nancy      | Big Rapids    | Olcott, Marie     | Grand Ledge  | Watson, S.D.        | St. Johns     |
| Goodfellow, Minnie E. | -             | Oliver, A.B.      | Wacousta     | Watson, S.D. (Mrs)  | St. Johns     |
| Goodrich, Bernice     | Bath          | Parr, Ora         | Maple Rapids | Webster, Willard    | Bath          |
| Griswold, M. Frances  | Ovid          | Parrott, Lewis M. | -            | Wellington, Mary    | Maple Rapids  |
| Grove, Leo J.         | Jessie        | Pease, Nettie     | Maple Rapids | Wellington, Mary E. | St. Johns     |
| Grove, S.D.           | Pewamo        | Phelps, Bertha    | Bath         | Whitlock, Bertha    | St. Johns     |
| Gunnison, Gertrude    | Lansing       | Phelps, Blanch    | Bath         | Whitlock, Blanche   | Wacousta      |
| Gunnison, H.B.        | DeWitt        | Pierce, Howard    | Bath         | Whitney, Iva        | Bath          |
| Hall, Horace A.       | Bath          | Plowman, Irma     | Wacousta     | Wilson, Florence    | St. Johns     |
| Hampton, Blanche      | Ovid          | Plunket, Etta     | Victor       | Woodbury, Mary      | St. Johns     |
| Hampton, Gertrude     | Ovid          | Plunkett, E.M.    | Ovid         | Woodruff, Saidee    | St. Johns     |
| Harris, Eva L.        | Hubbardston   | Pope, Leroy C.    | Fowler       |                     |               |

**Press Release:** On the occasion of the 166<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of Clinton County in 1839, The Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society have initiated a project to recognize descendants of the county's early settlers. **Early Settler Certificates** will be issued to those persons who can prove descent from an ancestor who settled in Clinton County prior to 31 Dec 1865. **Early Family Certificates** will be issued to those who can prove descent from an ancestor who resided in Clinton County prior to 31 Dec 1899. Current residency is not required.

Application forms may be requested by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Genealogists of CCHS, Box 23, St. Johns, MI, or they can be downloaded online at [www.dewittlibrary.com/CCHS](http://www.dewittlibrary.com/CCHS). They are also available at the Archives of the Clinton Co. Historical Society, 13121 Brook Road, Lansing, MI; Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, and local libraries.

***NOTICE: For the Sesquicentennial Celebration the Genealogist's of the Clinton County Historical Society are looking for a direct descendent of the any of first St. Johns City Settlers and also, the Earliest Continuous family line still living in Clinton County, Michigan. Check your ancestry and see if you could be connected to one of these and let us know.***

✈ **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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.



### **Charles Brabon**

26 June 1918, at Clayton's Corners,  
the Interurban Station on Chadwick  
Road, one mile east of DeWitt Road.  
(courtesy of Ken & Karen Pontius)

### **RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

- Civil War letters of Emery & Franklin Warner.
- Photos: George Weller; Marie Belknap.
- Clinton Co. Directories 1973-74 through 1985-86.
- Sanford School - 2004 reunion book
- Sanford School - Teacher's records 1947 & 1951.
- Sanford School – Census & Family Records 1926-1940's.
- Rural school census; 1902-1925.
- Descendants of James Buck.
- *Our Ancestors*, Kelch & Steinle families.
- Andrew S. Jolly genealogy.
- Descendants of John, George, Lynds, & Bemsley P. Conn.
- Clinton Co. Cemeteries (photos & maps).
- DeWitt Historical Markers (photos on CD).