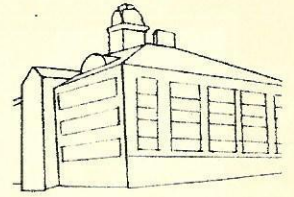


Clinton County Trails

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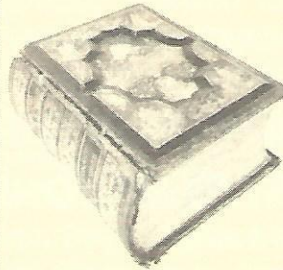
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NEWSLETTER

Myrna Van Epps
Kim Sperry
Co-Editors

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ATKINSON FAMILY BIBLE

New Devotional & Explanatory Pictorial Family Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments, Apocrypha, Concordance, and Psalms in Metre, translated out of the original tongues with all former translations diligently compared and revised. Philadelphia, PA; National Publishing Co., no date.

Flyleaf: Presented to Mrs. Sarah A. Atkinson by Mr. William Atkinson, September.

[Note: Except for the handwriting in the presentation form on the flyleaf, all the following information was entered in the same handwriting.]

This certifies that William Atkinson and Sarah A. Baughn were united by me in the holy bonds of matrimony in the year of our Lord 1864 or 65. [Date not completely filled in; form not signed.]

MARRIAGES

George Atkinson	Victoria Britton	
Alice Atkinson	Frank Durkee	
Charles Atkinson	Doll Durkee	
Frank Atkinson	Hattie Britton	
Gordon Atkinson	Doris Warren	24 Aug 1915
Dorothy Durkee	Harold Bullard	
Ralph George Atkinson	Alice Irene Cressman	14 Jun 1941
Lenore Janet Atkinson	Charles L. Campbell	22 Nov 1962
James R. Atkinson	Suzi Powell	14 Aug 1966
Jane A. Atkinson	Stanley Gromelski	Jun 1972
Lloyd J. Atkinson	Mildred Dutcher	

BIRTHS

William Atkinson	Lincolnshire, England	11 Apr 1840
Alice		1866
George		28 Feb 1968 ^(sic)
Charles		1869
Frank		
Clarence		
Gordon (to George & Victoria)		4 Apr 1896
Lloyd (to Frank & Hattie)		13 Dec 1907
Ralph Atkinson (to Gordon & Doris W.)		27 May 1916
Lenore Atkinson (to Gordon & Doris W.)		29 May 1926



James Ralph Atkinson (to Ralph G. & Alice)	13 Jul 1943
Jane Alice Atkinson (to Ralph G. & Alice)	23 Nov 1947
Bruce George Atkinson (to Ralph G. & Alice)	13 Oct 1951
Brenda Lee Campbell (to Charles L. & Lenore)	25 Aug 1964
Donald Bullard (to Harold & Dorothy)	31 May 1926
Karin Michelle Atkinson (to James R. & Suzi)	10 Jan 1969
Kimberly Renee Atkinson (to James R. & Suzi)	16 Jan 1973

DEATHS

William Atkinson	Bingham Twp.	7 Apr 1921
Sarah A. Atkinson		Oct 1893
George Atkinson		13 Sep 1926
Gordon Atkinson		2 Jul 1974
Doris Atkinson		2 Jan 1981
Victoria Atkinson		12 Feb 1944

MARTHA L. DAVIS, SISTER OF JOHN BROWN

By Wayne Summers

Among those interred in the Mount Rest Cemetery, St. Johns, is Martha L. Davis, a woman who attained fame, but not through her own actions. Her notoriety came rather through the actions of her half-brother, **John Brown**.

Martha L. (Brown) Davis was born June 18, 1832, in Hudson, Ohio, the youngest of sixteen children. Her father, **Owen Brown** married first **Ruth Mills** about 1797. The second of seven children from this marriage was John. After the death of his first wife in December of 1808 he married about 1811 **Sally Root**.

John Brown was a man with deeply held religious beliefs. Primary among them was that slavery was a crime against both God and humanity. Deciding that action was required, he set off with three of his sons and a group of Ohio men to Kansas where in 1856 he killed five pro-slavery settlers north of Pottawatomie Creek in Franklin County, Kansas in what became known as the Pottawatomie Massacre.

In 1859 he led an attack on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, with the hope of using the weapons to arm slaves. The mission failed and John Brown was tried for treason and hung. Throughout the North John Brown was widely seen as a martyr for the abolitionist cause.

Martha in a 1900 interview said of her brother, "He was a great, strong man, with strong convictions, who did not believe that he could conquer the south, but that the Harper's Ferry stroke would arouse both the north and the south and would crystallize sentiment into activity."

"I never believed John had much to do with the choice of his career. The times demanded someone who would act, and he was but the instrument in the hands of some superior power."

Stephen and Martha L. (Brown) Davis had moved to the St. Johns area to a farm on Avery Road, just east of Williams Road in 1865. After Stephen's death in June of 1891 Martha remained on the farm with her son **Jay** until moving to Bendon, Michigan in Benzie County around 1908. She died there on September 28, 1910.

While a strong supporter of Civil War veteran's groups, Martha spent most of her life trying to stay out of the spotlight. At times she would go so far as to alter her appearance so as to be able to pass unnoticed at Civil War veteran meetings.

The village of St. Johns, proud of her connection with her famous antislavery brother, honored Martha L. Davis by putting her picture on display in the Rodney B. Wilson High School where it hung for many years. The picture is currently held by the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

The 23d Reg., Mich. Vol. Infantry Helped Make Civil War History



Veterans of the old 23rd regiment, Mich., V. I., held their annual reunion in St. Johns last Thursday. This regiment made a proud record for itself during the Civil War and *The Republican* deems it appropriate at this time to give the following brief historical sketch, although the regiment's achievements are worthy more extended mention.

The Twenty-third Regiment began its service in Kentucky and Ohio, later marching to East Tennessee and campaigning in that section; took an active part in the Georgia campaign, the pursuit of Hood, battles of Columbia, Franklin and Nashville; transferred to the East and saw service in North Carolina.

The Twenty-third was made up of men from the counties composing the Sixth Congressional District, and was raised and organized in the summer of 1862 under the President's call for volunteers, issued on the 2nd of July, immediately after the close of the Seven Day's battles on the Virginia peninsula.

In this regiment the county of Clinton was represented by one full company under command of Capt. (now General) **O. L. Spaulding**, and another company (under Capt. **Henry Walbridge**, deceased) of which very nearly all the members were from Clinton. Capt. Spaulding had been assisted in the recruiting of his company by Henry Walbridge, with the expectation that the latter would be made its first lieutenant, but when it became apparent that many more than enough men to fill one company could be obtained here, he commenced the formation of a second company, which was filled without much difficulty, and he became its captain, with **Stephen J. Wright** as first and **Alonzo O. Hunt** as second lieutenant. This company was designated as G company of the Twenty-third.

We quote as follows from an historical sketch of the Twenty-third, describing the pursuit of Hood.

"Here (Spring Hill, Tenn.) the enemy was found in force occupying the road. An attack was made, and after a short fight the Confederates were driven from their position. The Union forces then resumed the march to Franklin, Tenn., and arriving there in the morning of the 30th, immediately took position and commenced throwing temporary defenses which was continued through the day. About sunset the forces of Hood, moving in four strong lines, assaulted the position most furiously, but were repulsed with heavy loss. The attack was several times renewed but without success to the enemy. Finally at about ten o'clock p.m. the Confederate forces, concentrating all their energies in a supreme effort to carry their defenses, made their final, and by far their most desperate assault, charging up to and over the parapet, and planting their colors on the work in front of the Twenty-third Michigan. But beyond that limit, they did not go, for Col. Spaulding's men gave them the bayonet, in a counter-charge which is described as one of the most brilliant and effective in the entire history of the war. It was a short, but very desperate, hand-to-hand struggle in which the Michigan men gallantly held their position against the furious assault of the Confederacy.

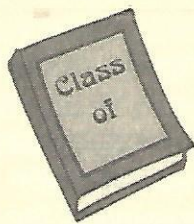
"Immediately after this successful repulse of the enemy, the Twenty-third with the other Union troops withdrew and crossing the river, moved on the road to Nashville, arriving there at two p.m. on December 1st, having marched fifty miles in forty-eight hours, five hours of which time had been passed under fire in the desperate battle of Franklin. During the week which had elapsed since the arrival of the Twenty-third at Columbia, the men had suffered severely from scarcity of provisions, and in the last two days of the movement had subsisted on less than quarter rations.

"The regiment lay within the works of Nashville for two weeks, and then in the morning of the 15th of December it moved out with its division and the other commands under Gen. Thomas to attack the Confederate army, which had in the meantime concentrated in their front just south of the city.

"In the battles of the 15th and 16th of December, which resulted in the defeat and complete rout of Hood's army, the Twenty-third took an active part, and was conspicuous for steadiness and bravery during those two days of carnage. On the first day of the battle, Col. Spaulding, with his regiment, then in the I. Moore, made a most daring and dashing charge on a position occupied by a portion of the enemy's infantry, posted behind a heavy stone wall on the crest of a hill, which carried in most brilliant style, capturing more prisoners than there were men in the line of the regiment. The flag-staff was shot in two and the color-sergeant severely wounded, but before the colors fell to the ground they were grasped by the corporal of the color-guard and gallantly carried to the front.

"On the 17th the pursuit of the enemy commenced, and during the first three days of the march, the mud being fully six inches deep, which, with the swollen stream, rendered progress extremely difficult and tedious. The pursuit was continued until Columbia was reached, where a halt was made and the movement ended."

(Ray Lake submitted this article which was originally published in the *Clinton Republican* on 25 September 1919. His Great Grandfather, Levi Holsinger, took part in the 23rd Infantry.)

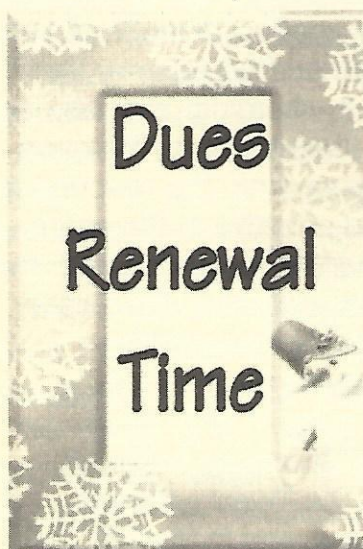


Julie's project:

Don't forget to check our web page for progress on the High School Yearbook project which Julie Peters continues to expand. To donate yearbooks for scanning, contact her at petersj@msu.edu.

Survey

Thank you to those who responded to the survey in the last issue of this newsletter about future editions. Several people have offered to submit articles which we especially appreciate and look forward to. You will be notified if the decision is made to use e-mail to deliver *Clinton Co. Trails* to those willing to accept that method.



Preserving our Newspapers

At the November meeting of the Genealogists of CCHS it was decided to establish a fund for microfilming more of the old newspapers which are stored in the archives, especially the *Clinton Co. Republican-News*. Currently none of them after 1950 have been filmed. A motion to use the balance of the memorial fund (\$242.50) for this purpose was passed. Contributions to this fund would be gratefully received.

Early Settler

Leanne K. (Walter) Walling received an Early Settler Certificate in 2005 based on the following lineage chart and the required documentation to prove her connection to Christian Baker of Ovid.

LINEAGE CHART

Start the first generation with you, the recipient of the chart.

1 I, [name] LEANNE KAY WALLING (WALTER) born on 7 OCT 1958
At ST. JOHNS, CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN [place, county, state]
Married to THOMAS EDWIN WALLING on 24 SEP 1977
Who is child of GERALD LEWIS WALTER & WINIFRED JEANNE BAKER
At OVID, MICHIGAN occupation OFFICE MANAGER
Other spouses _____ military service _____

Continue with other direct line ancestors back through qualifying ancestor.

2 parent WINIFRED JEANNE WALTER (BAKER)

Born 24 APR 1926 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Married to GERALD LEWIS WALTER
Who is child of JOHN BARTON BAKER & ETHEL MAE YARIGER
On 14 OCT 1944 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Died 25 JAN 2004 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Buried MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY occupation DENTAL OFFICE MANAGER
Military service _____ other spouses _____

3 grandparent JOHN BARTON BAKER
Born 6 MAR 1885 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Married to ETHEL MAE YARIGER
Child of WILLIAM H. BAKER & EDITH L. DOE
On 27 JUN 1906 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Died 3 MAY 1960 at CRYSTAL, MICHIGAN
Buried MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY occupation CARPENTER
Military service _____ other spouses _____

4 g-grandparent WILLIAM H. BAKER
Born 7 FEB 1855 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Married to EDITH L. DOE
Child of CHRISTIAN BAKER & ELIZABETH HETTINGER
On 31 DEC 1878 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Died 5 MAR 1912 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Buried MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY occupation FARMER
Military service _____ other spouses _____

5 gg-grandparent CHRISTIAN BAKER
Born 22 SEP 1829 at ADAMS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
Married to ELIZABETH HETTINGER
Child of PETER BAKER & ELIZABETH
On 9 MAY 1854 at ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO
Died 1 MAR 1890 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Buried SOUTH OVID CEMETERY occupation FARMER
Military service _____ other spouses _____

6 ggg-grandparent PETER BAKER
Born c 1808 at _____
Married to ELIZABETH
Child of _____ & _____
On _____ at _____
Died 6 MAR 1878 at OVID, MICHIGAN
Buried SOUTH OVID CEMETERY occupation BLACKSMITH
Military service _____ other spouses _____

DR. GEORGE W. TOPPING

by Nonsense [aka Charity L. (Van Dyke) Pearce]. *Clinton Independent*, 3 Mar 1892. This article was found in a scrapbook kept by Josephine (Pearce) Tucker. The scrapbook contains many other articles written by Charity L. (VanDyke) Pearce who also sometimes wrote under the pseudonym of "Nemesis."

Going back a few generations in the paternal line, we come to **Daniel Topping** who with five brothers emigrated to America from England, all settling on Long Island. He was captain in the forces that fought for the freedom of the colonies and in civil life he was a farmer. He owned a larger tract of land given him by the government for his services in the Revolution, but not liking the property, sold it for a song and settled near Sacketts Harbor, NY. There he died at a ripe old age. His warrant covered ground now the site of the town of Elbridge.

One of his children was **Simeon H.**, who was born on Long Island, Dec. 23, 1762, and died Feb. 8, 1831. He owned 100 acres of land in Cayuga Co., NY. His wife was **Sarah Frost**, born in NJ, July 22, 1765, and died in 1848. Both spent their old age with their son, **David Topping**, and both belonged to the Baptist Church. They reared nine children.

One of the families of Simeon Topping was **Daniel** who was born in Hanover Twp., Morris Co., NY, Dec. 25, 1790, and followed the ancestral occupation. He was a lieutenant in the War of 1812 and fought at Lewiston and Black Rock. He was afterwards captain of the state militia. Tall, straight, and of a soldierly bearing, he was a marked man wherever he appeared. As his grandfather had been before him, he was known far and near as Deacon Topping, holding office in the regular Baptist church almost a lifetime. His home was a stopping place for all the ministers who passed that way and his hand was ever open to relieve the wants of others. He made his home in Cayuga Co., NY, where he breathed his last Sunday, Aug. 3, 1847. His faithful wife survived him many years and passed away at the home of their son, G. W., our subject, Apr. 1, 1874. She was born at Rensselaerville, NY, Oct. 21, 1791, and bore the maiden name of **Betsy Atwood**. She was one of those good, kind, devoted women who leave a void in the entire neighborhood when they pass away and from early life she was a consistent member of the Baptist church. The children she reared are **Nancy, Lydia, James, Louisa, Harriet, Cynthia, Almira, George W., Morton, and Charles**.

Dr. Topping was born at Mentz, Cayuga Co., NY, Dec. 11, 1827 and his boyhood days were spent on a farm. He attended the district school and then went to Groton Academy in Tompkins Co., and later studied in the Normal school in Albany. To this school he was appointed by the county board, which gave a free scholarship to the most successful teacher in the county. The year before he had been clerk in the collector's office in Montezuma on the Erie Canal and in the winter had taught a large district school, thus showing how able he is to instruct and guide others.

After taking up his work in the Normal school, young Topping began to study medicine, reading with Dr. **J.V. Griggs** at Montezuma nine months. He next went to Townsend, Huron Co., OH, and pursued his studies with his brother-in-law, Dr. **W. S. Allaben**, about six months after which he spent one term in the medical department of the Wooster University, Cleveland, OH.

The next steps of Dr. Topping was to cross the plains to California in company with three comrades, the party having eight horse and two mules. They were 112 days traveling from Kansas City to Bear River, CA, and during the trip had some trouble with the Indians but lost none of their number.

Mr. Topping and his partner opened and worked mines and had the usual experience, sometimes making a rich strike and again being reduced to almost grub stake. At one time the doctor could have brought back a fortune but lured on by high hopes he stayed and lost, and at last, after an absence of three years, came home with \$3,000 only.

The return was made by the Nicaragua route in the spring of 1853, and the young man was soon studying Latin and German at Lockport, NY. In the fall he entered the medical department of the University of Michigan and in the spring of 1854 received his diploma and at once selected

DeWitt as the place to open an office. Dr. Topping has a reputation based not alone on the careful diagnosis and skillful treatment of diseases but also upon critical surgical operations he has performed. Much work with his knife and saw has been placed in his hands and he has shown a coolness, keenness of apprehension, the delicate touch required by a surgeon, and the tender firmness so needful in times of danger and excitement.

In 1867 he performed an operation on **Charles Corlett**, who had completely severed the larynx and the anterior portion of the esophagus near the pomum adami. For twenty days the patient was fed through the wound. As this was the first case of the kind on record, it caused the name and fame of Dr. Topping to travel broadcast in professional circles.

He performed a new and difficult amputation of a part of the foot through the shaft of the metatarsus and other equally important work has been done by him in a number of cases. He has removed tumors and wielded the scalpel in almost every way known to surgeons.

A great shock came to Dr. Topping June 17, 1864, when his wife was burned to death. She was but 28 years and 2 days old. Her maiden name was **Lusina Hurd**, and she had two daughters: **Alice**, now wife of **W. S. Weld**, an insurance agent in Elgin, IL; and Mrs. **Mary Walbridge** whose husband is an attorney in Ithaca, this state.

Aug. 3, 1865, Dr. Topping made a second matrimonial alliance, wedding **Sidenia A. Ballard** who was born in Franklin Co., VT, Oct. 18, 1833, and by this marriage a son was born. **George B. Topping** now running a wholesale drug house in Columbus, OH, having graduated in pharmacy from a school in Ann Arbor. The residence of Dr. Topping is a neat and attractive one and within evidence of taste and regard for true comfort may be seen. Mrs. Topping is a notable housewife, is bright and winning in her ways and kind hearted and obliging.

In 1877 Dr. Topping was president of the old Clinton Co. medical society and he has been corresponding secretary, treasurer, and president of the state medical society, holding the last named office in 1883. He was sent as a delegate to the meeting of the American Medical Assoc. for or five times, of which he remains a prominent member.

Dr. Topping belongs to the Blue Lodge No. 272 F & A. M. in DeWitt, to Commandry No. 25 K.T. in Lansing, and to Capital Chapter No. 9 R.A.M. in the same city. He is also a member of Council No. 29 of Royal and Select Masters in Lansing, of the I. O. O. F. No. 241 in DeWitt, and the grange No. 459 also in DeWitt. He represented his society three times as a delegate to the Grand Lodge of I.O.O.F.

Politically he is a democrat, but sufficiently independent to be in no bondage to party ties, reserving the right to consider the man and the need of the moment at every election. For a number of years he was school inspector, and in every work he has undertaken he has shown himself to be worthy of trust. At present he carries on a drug store in connection with his practice. The doctor is a regular correspondent to the medical journals of the country and is often engaged in the discussion of important subjects through different periodicals. He has given considerable attention to ornithology and entomology and has the largest collection of birds and insects in the country. The doctor is very liberal in his religious views.

Mrs. Dr. Topping was graduated from the Michigan Female College June 28, 1861, and prior to her marriage was a very successful teacher for twelve years, teaching in some of the schools in the state and holding the position a principal in several graded schools. Since her marriage she has taken a very active part in the M.E. church and has served several years as superintendent of the Sunday school. In the cause of temperance she is an active worker whenever an opportunity presents itself. She is now and has been for several years president of the W.C.T.U. of DeWitt.

Dr. Topping died suddenly on 14 Jan. 1895, age 67, of heart failure while sitting in his chair. Sidenia/Sarah A. (Ballard) Topping died 10 Nov. 1899. She is buried in the DeWitt Cemetery next to Dr. Topping and Lusina/Lucinda (Hurd) Topping.

PARKER SCHOOL REUNIONS

1938 - 1948

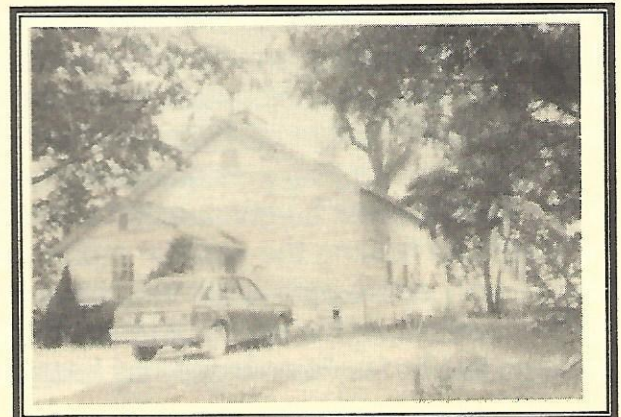
Dist. #8 Frl., Bingham Twp., Clinton Co., Michigan

Those who Attended

Adams, Walter L.
 Andrews, Maude, Tchr.
 Bacon, Ferne (Wilkie)
 Bowden, Jessie
 Bowden, Vina
 Bowen, Ed
 Bowen, Harriett (Mrs)
 Bowen, John (M/M)
 Bowen, Will (M/M)
 Bradner, Curtis
 Brooks, George
 Brooks, Goldie (Palmer)
 Bross, Clara E.
 Bross, H. W.
 Budd, Florence (Keyes)
 Budd, Leon
 Butler, Wilbur (M/M)
 Carpenter, Ethel (Cook), Tchr.
 Casteel, Lucile (Wilkie)
 Chapman, Stella (Keys)
 Clow, Maude (Tranchell)
 Davis, Emma (Parker)
 Davis, Mary (Woodbury)
 Desprez, Luella (Rahl)
 Dobson, Albert
 Doyen, Amy (Adams)
 Doyen, Glenn
 Esch, Etta (Bowen)
 Field, Cecil (Hugus)
 Fritz, Eva (Shulters) (Mrs. Charles)
 Furnish, Clyde
 Furnish, Earl
 Furnish, Effie
 Gillson, Mary (Bowen)
 Goldsmith (Mr)
 Goldsmith, Margaret ,Tchr.
 Harriman, Mae (Gibson)
 Hazelton, Rose (Blakely)
 Henning, Elizabeth (Dobson)
 Hicks, Stephen (M/M)
 Hill, Grace (Wilkie)
 Hiner, Lilian (Dobson)
 Holton, Helen – Tchr.
 Hugus, Della (Warren)
 Hugus, Ida
 Hugus, Joe (M/M)
 Hugus, John C.
 Hugus, Wesley (Mrs)
 Johannes, Mary Roberts)

Josenhans, Edith (Rahl)
 Kesby, Fred
 Kathe, Fred
 Kellogg, Carrie
 Keys, Emma Louise
 Keys, Ezra N.
 Keys, Nelson
 Keys, Sidney B. (M/M)
 Keyes, Stephen P. (M/M)
 King, Hattie (Kathe)
 Knight, Edyth (Shulters)
 Korff, Francis (M/M)
 Lapham, Charles N. M/M)
 Lapham, Clara
 Lapham, Clyde (M/M)
 Lapham, Frank E.
 LaVanselor, Laura (Walker)
 Lee, Julia (Knight)
 Livingston, Bertha (Keys)
 Livingston, Eugene
 Marshall, Vesta (Woodbury)
 McCollum, Hattie
 McCullough, Leon (M/M)
 McCullough, Lewis
 McCullough, Myrtie (Avery) -Tchr.
 McMonagle, Clinton (Sanford)
 Mehney, Jane (Dobson)
 Moore, Emma (Bowden)
 Ormston, Bertha Z.
 Ormston, Frank H. (M/M)
 Ormston, M. D.
 Ormston, William (Mrs)
 Palmer, Emma (Latting)
 Palmer, Alice (Dobson)
 Parker, Anson
 Parker, Fred
 Parker, Lela (Mrs. Anson)
 Parker, Seth
 Pearl, O. M. (Mrs) -Tchr.
 Peterson, Stella (Hugus)
 Pilmore, Claud
 Pilmore, Nora (Rahl)
 Pilmore, Will
 Rahl, Alvin
 Rahl, Earnest
 Rahl, Fred
 Rahl, Etta (Parker)
 Rahl, Wilbur N.
 Rathburn, Bert

Rathburn, Edna (Brown)
 Sage, Irving
 Sage, Ralph
 Sanford, Clinton (Mrs)
 Scott, Maude (Footitt), Tchr.
 Shaw, C. D.
 Shaw, Edna (Hugus)
 Shoupe/Shupe, Mae (Lyon)
 Shulters, Ed
 Shulters, William
 Simmons, Elmer (Mrs)
 Simmons, Elmer - Tchr.
 Simmons, Milton Dane
 Simmons, William
 Smith, Isabelle (Latting)
 Smith, Leone (Shaw), Tchr.
 Stone, Letia (Sage)
 Stone, Lucy (Adams)
 Thomas, Charlie
 Thomas, Hazel (Sanford)
 Tranchell, Carmen
 Tranchell, Hattie (Mrs)
 Tubbs, Arthur
 Tubbs, Wellington
 VanBibber, Elizabeth (Hugus)
 Walker, Lucille
 Walker, Thorne
 Warren, Floyd
 Wilcox, Mae (Sage), (Mrs. Carl)
 Wilkie, Kenneth
 Wilkie, Ralph
 Wilson, Nettie (Dobson)



*Parker School, a private residence in 1991.
 Archives of the CCHS, Temple-Tiedt Collection.*

SELECTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

1938: To Bertha (Keys) Livingston and Edna (Hugus) Shaw goes the credit for the idea of a school reunion which met with such a generous response when about thirty former pupils and their families gathered at the old school house for a picnic dinner.

1939: The motion was made, seconded, and carried to make the reunion an annual affair to be held on the last Saturday in August. Those who attended school or taught during or prior to 1900 were to be invited. A collection was taken which netted \$1.25, the money to be used for postage and to purchase a notebook for record of the meetings. ... Mrs. Emma Palmer told of going to school in the old schoolhouse which stood across the road from the Tranchell farm. She said the present schoolhouse was built about 70 years ago. (signed, Carmen Tranchell, drafted Secretary)

1940: About 36 people were called by the school bell to a bounteous picnic dinner on the schoolhouse lawn. Honorable mention was made of those who had died this last year: Irving Sage, Albert Dobson, Emma (Parker) Davis, and Will Parker.

One of the chief centers of attraction was a miniature model of an old-fashioned threshing machine constructed by a former student, Francis Korff, who enjoyed such work as a hobby. Altogether he worked about eight months on it in spare time. The engine is a perfect reproduction of the old type that was one so common but is now almost extinct. The boiler is six inches long and is a perfect scale model, as well as the separator. Everything on the entire outfit was made by hand, and his only tools were a jack knife, screw driver, pliers, and file. Every shaft in the separator runs in a brass bushing. This model was ranked in a hobby show as the smallest working model of a threshing outfit ever built. When the outfit was properly placed, the workmen with pitchforks on their shoulders were stationed around the yard, the electric switch turned on to set the machine in motion.

The oldest resident of the school district present was Mrs. Harriet Bowen who is 82. The oldest student present was Mrs. Emma (Latting) Palmer, 82.

June 27, 1941: The roll was taken and found five former teachers present: Mrs. Isabel (Latting) Smith, 81; Mrs. Myrtie (Avery) McCullough; Mrs. Bertha (Keys) Livingston; Miss Carmen Tranchell; and Elmer Simmons.

June 1942: Fourteen former teachers and pupils and twelve visitors met at the schoolhouse for the fifth Parker School reunion. After some discussion it was voted to continue the reunions in spite of gas rationing.

Aug. 12, 1943: There were twenty-one in attendance. A citation was read for Staff Sergeant Gayle Lapham for gallantry in Tunisia. [awarded the Silver Star for action on Jan 28, 1943. 1st Lt. Gale G. Lapham was killed in action on June 14, 1945, in Normandy, France.] Robert Gillson is now in Australia.

Aug. 19, 1944: Twenty-four former pupils and teachers, together with their guests, sat down to a bountiful picnic dinner on the lawn of the Livingston home. During a period of reminiscence John Hugus said he had the first report card he received 70 years ago. After visiting for a time those who wished took a ride around the beautiful Livingston farms. Collection \$2.12.

Aug. 25, 1945: Twenty-one members responded to the roll call. Minutes of 1944 meeting were read. Discussion followed as to what to do with the money on hand. Motion made and seconded to use excess money to purchase a book for the Parker School.

Aug. 31, 1946: The ninth annual reunion of former teachers and pupils (enrolled prior to 1905) of the Parker School was held on the lawn at the Livingston Farms with a basket dinner at 1 p.m. as one of the highlights of the occasion. It was moved, seconded, carried that we take our dinner pails and go to the schoolhouse for the annual 1947 meeting. Mrs. O. M. Pearl, who was with us for the first time, mentioned in her little explanation about her work as a teacher, that she had five Keys children, three Dobsons, and one Foot, meaning Pearl Foot, as students. Ezra Keys

mentioned the names of the following instructors: Emma Parker as his first teacher, Walter Merrill, Clara Kroll, Herbert Thompson, and Lee Welter.

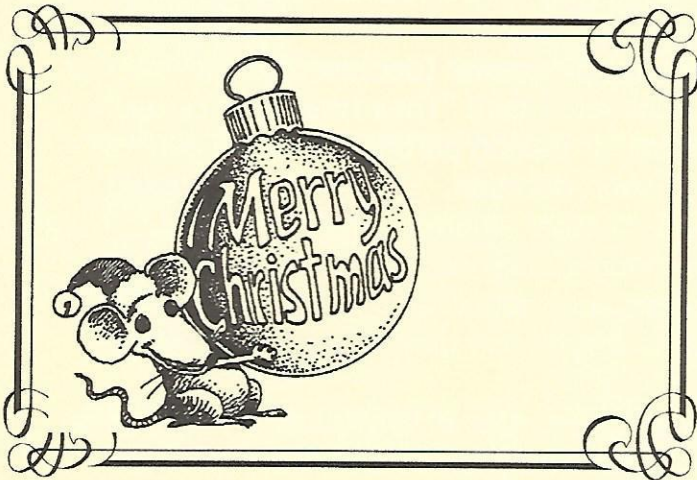
Aug. 31, 1947: The president appointed Bertha (Keys) Livingston to be the teacher for the program next year. On motion Clyde Lapham was elected school commissioner. On motion Sidney Keys was elected janitor. There will be speaking, singing, and dialogues for next year. The assembly joined in singing the following songs: *Twenty Froggies Went to School; John Brown's Body Lies a Mouldering in the Grave; When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again; The King of the Cannibal Islands;* The grammar class attempted to diagram sentences on the blackboard. During the arithmetic class, Clyde Lapham entertained the group by reciting the table of sixes as they did it in his day: "Sic um one is six; sic um two is twelve, etc

June 26, 1948: Thirty-four former teachers, pupils, and guests attended the 11th annual Parker School reunion. Janitor, Sidney Keys rang the bell at 3:00 p.m. calling everyone inside the schoolhouse. A book, *The American Natural History*, by W. T. Hornaday, was presented to the school as a gift from the group.

Teacher, "Bertha," had the fifth grade pupils in reading class when Mr. Winston, County School Commissioner (impersonated by Clyde Lapham), called on the school. Mr. Winston heard the class read the story of *Tip Top and Featherhead* from *Harper's Fifth Reader*, then read a few paragraphs himself in a pompous, wheezy manner to show them how it should be read. Mr. Winston also listened to the primary class, Clara Lapham, Rose Blakely, Hattie Tranchell (who said she didn't want to read but wanted to go home), Lizzie Ormston, and "Stevie" Keys. He approved of their performance and allowed that Stevie was a "nice little repeater." About this time Mr. Winston's horse became restless and he had to leave.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- *Union Soldiers of the Civil War Buried in Clinton Co.*; L. Ray Lake
- *1903 Sibylline Yearbook* (SJHS)
- Stoney Creek School records; 1909 – 1963 (34 books)
- Jason School record book ca 1867-1884
- Davis-Norris Sesqui. Farm History, 1838-1994; Donald Davis; ca 1994
- Scrapbook kept by Mina (Bixby) Locher
- Scrapbook of obituaries & columns by Charity L. VanDyke) Pearce
- *A List of Post Offices in Michigan*; March 1873
- *Some Descendants of Robert Norris 1772-1850*; Dwane V. Norris
- *Marshall's of Greenbush Twp.*; Jerry R. Marshall; 2001
- Genealogical papers relating to Seth & Amon Marshall
- Atkinson family Bible
- Bullard family Bible
- Eureka Child Study Club scrapbook; 1948-95
- Eureka Child Study Club program books 1956-78
- *New Eng. Hist. & Gen. Register*, Misc. 1992-5 issues
- *New Eng. Hist. & Gen. Register*, Misc. 2006-8 issues
- *Nat. Gen. Soc. Quarterly*; 2006-8 issues
- *Ohio Gen. Soc. Quarterly*; Mar & Jun 2008
- *The Report*; Ohio Gen. Soc; Spring 1995
- *Sandusky Co., OH, Landowners Atlas, 1860*; 1990
- *Index to Federal Pop. Census of OH; 1860*
- *Writing the Family Narrative*; Gouldrup; 1987
- *Numbering Your Genealogy*; Curran; 1999
- Photos:
 - Willard C. Lyon
 - SJSH Football Team; 1912
 - 1882 SJHS Grads: Ida May (Lyon) Fildew; Frank Vauconsant; Sara H. Pouch; Wilbur Clarence Wright; Louisa Eliza Cook
 - Simmons School students: 1930, 1934, & 1938
 - Maple Rapids Main St. views 1890's (3"x 5"s)
 - **Plowman 1947-1948**
 - St. Johns, E. State St, City Steam Laundry & Bruno's Restaurant
 - Ezekiel & Sarah (Cryderman) Niles
 - Wm. G. & Ethel A. (Niles) Moore
 - Lynn C. & Ethel M. (Brown) Niles
 - John E. & Julia (Clayton) Niles
 - Robert G. & Catherine J. (Niles) Bollman



EARLY SETTLER - EARLY FAMILY CERTIFICATES

Since January of 2006 the Genealogists of the Clinton Co. Historical Society have awarded 102 certificates to descendants of Clinton County's early residents, those who were here at least before 1900. The form to apply for this recognition can be downloaded at www.dewittlibrary.org/CCHS Following is a list of the settlers whose descendants have received certificates since the last reported in this newsletter, Dec. 2007, Vol. 22, No. 4:

John Vermillion Abel

Hector R. Harris

⇒ **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: dewittlibrary.org/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. 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 Complex** is located on the West side of the Courthouse Square in St. Johns. Victorian House, General Store, Carriage House, Changing Exhibits. Open April 15th to December 21st. Sunday 1 – 4 p.m. and Wednesday 2 – 7 p.m. The Museum is self-supporting and needs to raise funds each year for utilities, maintenance, and insurance. Please support the Museum by becoming a Friend of the Museum. Dues \$25.00 –based on calendar year payable to the "**PGS Museum**", P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 49979; includes Museum newsletter, invitation to annual events, free admission to Museum. Also request "Ways of Giving" Brochure. Please consider an endowment gift, monetary and artifact memorial gifts, and decedent bequests. Web page: www.pgsmuseum.org and their e-mail address is: pgs.museum@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ New _____ Renewal _____

E-Mail Address _____ Date _____

LIST 5 NAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING

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.

A REUNION

Thirty-one years ago next September **Lottie Moore, Alida VanFleet, Estella Cook, Ella Simmons, Jennie Parks, and Regina VanFleet** had their photos taken in a group. They had not been together in many years until last Thursday when they held a reunion at the home of **M. F. Pike**, and at that time again had their pictures taken.

At a picnic twelve years ago [11 July 1891], **Hiram Simmons** (deceased) ex-postmaster of DeWitt, read a paper, and in speaking of these schoolmates said: "Their friendship certainly was fair to see—at day school, singing school, sociables, or visiting parties they were generally found together. If any dissensions arose they were of short duration. They held a respected place in the community and their pictures can be found in other albums than their own." They all became "school marms" but all, except one, have changed their occupation and names and though they are not all present at this meeting (12 years ago) gotten up in honor of one of their number, they are all living and my sincere wish is that-- Long may they live and happy be, beloved by all in their community."

They are now known as **Mrs. Hiram Burnes** and **Mrs. Albert Whitaker** of Riley, **Mrs. Jerome Dills** and **Mrs. Millard Pike**, of Olive; **Mrs. Silas Fletcher**, of Cass City; and Miss Regina VanFleet, who has been a teacher in Chicago for fifteen years.

A pleasant gathering was held on the beautiful lawn of **A. Whitaker** and wife, July 4th. Many old friends and neighbors met together to enjoy a picnic dinner and recall the pleasant times of long ago as well as to celebrate the present time. Mrs. Burnes and Mrs. Dills recited a dialogue they spoke at school about thirty-five years ago. The old-time game of quoits was participated in by **John Parks** the oldest man present. Before separating the company sang "God be With You Till We Meet Again. Mrs. Fletcher returns to Cass City this week.

(*Clinton Independent*; 9 July 1903.)

Note: These photos were discussed by Ken Coin in his *DeWitt Remembered* column in the *DeWitt-Bath Review* on 24 Feb. 1992. The original manuscript for the entire talk given by Mr. Simmons was found in **Mina (Bixby) Locher's** scrapbook which was recently donated to the archives.