

Clinton County Trails

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1 1988 Looking For Your Roots? Come Visit Us.

A publication of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society



MORE MEMORIES OF LONG AGO

In the Great Depression of the '30s, we lived on a farm near Owosso, in Central Michigan. We cut our firewood by two-man crosscut saws, and practically lived in our long johns.

On those winter mornings, we would grab our clothes and run for downstairs, to dress behind the stove, hoping to avoid chilblained feet. There was a trap line to check on the dark and frozen creek, cows to be milked, livestock to feed, bed and water. It was bad luck if the huge hand pump had lost its prime. Then we had to get a pitcher of water and pour it down the pump's cast iron throat until it would regurgitate a blast of icy water for the animals. Then, up to the house to wash up and have pancakes and eggs with sausage.

Lunches in hand -- homemade bread and apple butter -- off we'd go in a neighboring boy's Model A Ford to high school. The heater in that primitive car was a hinged flap into the engine compartment and on the down side of any hill the fumes would have us opening our windows.

After graduation at 16 in 1939, I finished a correspondence school course in aircraft theory, sold my pet Guernsey cow to my dad and left for three months of aircraft shop training in California. I'll never forget the look of anguish on my dear mother's face as the Grand Truck pulled out of the Lansing Station. It was my first train trip, my first time away from home.

Within a year I was a final assembly foreman over a small crew of riveters at the Willow Run bomber plant. One day I followed Charles Lindbergh down the line, marveling at his curiosity. Another time, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt cheered us on.

After three years in the Air Force, I landed at the Romulus airfield, where my parents and grandfather marveled at the

size of our plane.

My grandfather and I have seen many changes in the span of our two lives. When he was a child he saw Indians camping by the spring in our woods. One of his duties was to ride four miles north from our farm to "Rochester Colony" to get a bag of corn ground into meal. Perhaps before I'm gone I will see commuter service from Metro to the moon.

Keith Baker who wrote of his memories now lives in Ferndale, Michigan.



Keith Baker and his grandfather, Alvin Christian Baker, on the family farm in Clinton County in the 1920s.

YOUR STORY WANTED

The Clinton County Trails is your publication. Please send any material you would like to see included to Catherine Reed, 581 W. State Road, Lansing, Michigan, 48906.

List of Pupils Attending School in
NORTH RILEY FRACTIONAL DISTRICT NO. 2

Clinton County, Michigan, for the Winter Term of 1884-85

under the Instruction of

W. C. WRIGHT, St Johns

(The Figures denote the Ages)

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Ettie Acker | 15 | Bertha Lyon | 11 |
| Frances Benton | 14 | Ormie Lyon | 9 |
| Alloa Benton | 11 | Mary Ann Monroe | 6 |
| Bert Benton | 9 | Sherman McGrath | 18 |
| Earnest Benton | 7 | Janette McGrath | 14 |
| Rosette Benton | 9 | Alonzo McGrath | 10 |
| Floy Benton | 7 | Earnest Mosier | 10 |
| John Berg | 17 | Jesse Mosier | 8 |
| Eunie Chapman | 18 | J. W. Pruden | 17 |
| Ansel Chapman | 14 | Jany Pruden | 15 |
| Clara A. Georgia | 10 | Ora Pruden | 13 |
| Fred Georgia | 9 | Milton Pruden | 8 |
| Mark Georgia | 8 | James Pruden | 15 |
| Minnie Goodes | 14 | Charles K. Pruden | 10 |
| Fred Goodes | 10 | Belle Pruden | 8 |
| Jesse Granger | 17 | John Pruden | 14 |
| Justin Graham | 18 | Edith Pruden | 11 |
| Emma Halsey | 17 | Sophia Pruden | 7 |
| Luna Halsey | 15 | Perry Sheldon | 15 |
| Charlie Halsey | 11 | Frankie Slater | 9 |
| Bert Hamilton | 10 | Freeman Slater | 7 |
| Jesse Hammond | 9 | Verna Strong | 8 |
| Pearl Hill | 6 | Willie Thiell | 16 |
| Hattie Jacobs | 11 | Cora Thiell | 12 |
| Bert Jennings | 17 | Dellie Thiell | 9 |
| George Karcher | 20 | Nora Walker | 14 |
| Seymour Karcher | 16 | Rosetta Walker | 12 |
| Myrtie Karcher | 12 | Eda Whitaker | 16 |
| Eddie Krepps | 16 | Issadore Whitaker | 15 |
| Llewellyn Krepps | 12 | May Whitaker | 9 |
| Minnie Krepps | 10 | Hattie Whitaker | 10 |
| Darwin Krepps | 8 | Agelia Wineger | 16 |
| Eva Lyon | 17 | | |

"Pledged but to truth, to liberty and to law;
no hand shall sway, no power shall awe."

No. 28

Clinton County.

Public Schools of Michigan,

TEACHER'S THIRD GRADE CERTIFICATE.

Office of Township Superintendent, *De Witt* Township,
Jan. 3rd. 1887.

This Certifies, That *Marie Holman* is a person of good moral character, and has passed a satisfactory examination upon all the branches required by law to entitle *her* to a **Third Grade Certificate.** *She* is therefore deemed qualified to teach in School District No. *216* in this Township, for six months from this date, unless this Certificate shall be sooner revoked.

Orthography...90 Reading...98 Penmanship...90 Geography...90 Grammar...95 Arithmetic...95

Albert G. Zimmerman
Township Superintendent of Schools.

Average Standing
W. E. Camp & Co., Printers, Lansing, Mich.

TEACHER'S THIRD GRADE CERTIFICATE.

LIST OF PENSIONER'S ON THE ROLL Jan. 1, 1883

CLINTON COUNTY

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|------|-----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 162,963 | Bushey, Joseph | Bath | Wd R foot | 2.00 | Oct. 1879 |
| 150,674 | Carter, Geo. W. | " | ----- | 3.00 | ----- |
| 26,409 | Curtis, Wm. H. II | " | chr. diarr | 5.33 | Apr. 1864 |
| 218,831 | Goodrich, Wm. H. | " | wd head l fore arm | 4.00 | Oct. 1882 |
| 59,346 | Kitson, Alonzo | " | wd l arm | 8.00 | ----- |
| 124,460 | Munick, Mary | " | mother | 8.00 | Feb. 1868 |
| 190,481 | Pierce, Wm. | " | chr diarr | 6.00 | June 1881 |
| 71,788 | Potter, Olive M. | " | widow | 8.00 | ----- |
| 169,541 | Smith, Alfred R. | " | wd l side | 2.00 | June 1880 |
| 112,563 | Sweeney, James | " | wd r leg | 6.00 | Aug. 1871 |
| 27,918 | VanOstram, Louise | " | mother | 8.00 | Aug. 1864 |
| 33,096 | Wilson, Mary A. | " | widow | 8.00 | ----- |
| 62,506 | Wilson, Warren | " | wd r hip | 10.00 | Apr. 1866 |

Column 1. No. of Certificate
 2. Name of Pensioner
 3. Post Office Address
 4. Cause for which pensioned
 5. Monthly Rate
 6. Date of Original Allowance

Abstracted from Library of Michigan by Janet M. Snyder

Note: A complete list of Clinton County pensioners (283) can be found in the Clinton County Historical Archives.

Wilma Sowle, Librarian

29 April. 1908, Letter from Locust Hill (near Rochester, NY) to a relative in St. Johns:

"The automobile season has begun as I saw one of the horrid things go by today. They will be as thick as bees until bad weather begins in the fall. I hate the sight of them. I think Devil Wagon is the right name for them. That is what some call them."

