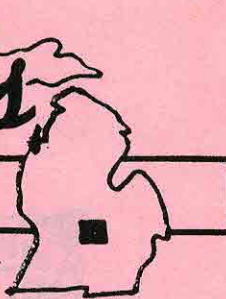


# Clinton County Trails

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.

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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."

PERSONS PAYING INCOME TAXES IN CLINTON COUNTY IN 1865  
July 28, 1865

## BINGHAM:

Jacob Brown	\$1000
M. V. Brown	19
S. A. Beers	200
L. S. Conn	30
J. H. Corbitt	250
Jas, Doke	75
H. M. Eddy	550
T. W. Perry	141
L. W. Fasquelle	204
- W. Gibbs	149
H. - Gibbs	136
John Hicks	158-
W. L. Hicks	345
G. R. Hunt	251
D. C. Hurd	208
Chas. Kipp	19--
C. Loranger	241
W. S. Lazelle	154
Rob't McFarlan	750
O. W. Munger	178
J. F. Newton	910
Chas. Plunstead	3334
H. M. Perrin	1300
- G. N. Randolph	605
Daniel Ridenour	200
G. W. Stephenson	726
- H. Stephenson	349
Wm. Sickles	97
- D. Tabor	394
O. P. Wilcox	6-0
- S. Walker	322
- W. Walton	1000
John Avery	23

## GREENBUSH:

W. J. Bancroft	615
D. R. Greenwood	34
Edwin Holbrook	1--
Nathan Mathews	204
J. D. Richmond	124
Jas. Westbrook	19
John Wagner	322

## ESSEX:

P. Bancroft	160
H. Benedict	41
D. B. Chase	36
J. F. Frink	20
S. T. Hill	100
Thos. Irwin	65
N. R. Lowe	438
L. H. Peet	218
R. Watson	190
L. Root	1800

## ESSEX (contd.):

John Ridenour	286
Caspar Radamacher	2000
H. M. Skinner	345
J. S. Walcott	61
Jas. Yoradon	47

## EAGLE:

P. Doty	591
A. J. Hogle	600
Isaac Pennington	110
Benj. Sillsbee	314
- Tallman	204

## RILEY:

M. Boughton	170
W. F. Dutton	180
Harvey Hunter	353
Nathan Reed	200

## OVID:

W. C. Bennett	300
Chas. Farmer	191
W. F. Faxon	1600
Jas. Scott	128
Wm. Shephard	1212

## VICTOR:

J. C. Brunson	187
John Collister	75
D. S. C-----	100
E. D. Clark	3-0
Chas. R. McKee	38
S. F. Willard	200
S. L. Swarthout	80
Josiah Upton	312
G. R. Upton	34
John Voorhies	201

## WATERTOWN:

S. Ferris	43-
S. B. Dayton	500
N. Daniels	65

## WESTPHALIA:

Theodore Droste	183
John Fedewa	-9
Jacob Miller	141
W. T. Plowman	12-
Jacob Platte	2500
Peter Simmons	168
A. B. Tabor	715

## BATH:

Robert Collister	205
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DALLAS:		DUPLAIN:	
Frank Fitzpatrick	248	H. B. Gleason	65
O. R. Rice	57	Orson Pearl	1500
M. Van Gieson	567		
Geo. Wheedman/ Weidmier	715	DEWITT:	
		Henry Moon	8-8
		S. W. Downer	292
BENGAL:		LEBANON:	
M. R. Frink	500	Chas. Sherwood	57
Edward Jones	264	Chas, Sessiins	483
Harrison Sutton	184	John Vance	745
Lyman Swagart	114		

LICENSED TEACHERS OF CLINTON COUNTY 1902-1903

COLLEGE AND LIFE CERTIFICATES

<p>OVID</p> <p>Plunkett, Supt. E. M.</p> <p>Williams, Fred R.</p> <p>Robson, Helen</p> <p>Griswold, Frances</p> <p>Field, Mary</p> <p>Youngs, Bertha</p> <p>Waldo, Supt. C. F.</p> <p>ST. JOHNS</p> <p>Bromley, Brownie</p> <p>Kelley, D. W.</p> <p>Newton, Maidie</p> <p>McDonald, Grace</p> <p>Smith, Wm. M.</p> <p>Bishop, Supt. W. T.</p> <p>Brekel, H. L.</p> <p>Smith, Mattie</p> <p>Kanagy, Lulu</p> <p>Smith, Nellie</p> <p>Savage, Nettie</p> <p>Pritchett, Alice J.</p> <p>WACOUSTA</p> <p>Hoyt, Cheever</p>	<p>SHEPARDSVILLE</p> <p>Hazel, Mrs. Fred</p> <p>Victor Green, John</p> <p>BATH</p> <p>Doxtader, Prin.</p> <p>SHORT TERM NORMAL CERTIFICATE</p> <p>Brown, Margaret St. Johns</p> <p>Donahue, Marie "</p> <p>Stead, T. C. "</p> <p>Himebaugh, Gertrude "</p> <p>Bellows, Esta "</p> <p>Wetzel, H. Maple Rapids</p> <p>Brown, Florence Eureka</p> <p>Kinter, Mrs. Union Home</p> <p>SPECIAL CERTIFICATES</p> <p>Warren, Agnes M. St. Johns</p> <p>Hamilton, Roy "</p> <p>Loomis, Dollie "</p> <p>Church, Flora "</p> <p>Cliff, Lilah M. South Riley</p> <p>Hankins, Clara Elsie</p>
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COUGH SYRUP

20 drops oil of Tar, cut with Alcohol  
 2 oz. compound syrup of Squillo  
 1 oz. Camphor  
 1/4 -- Laudinum  
       made in sample syrup  
 2 cups Sugar made in syrup. All mixed.

1/2 teaspoonful six times a day

This helped my brother and me last winter. Try it.

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Michigan Historical Society suggested that there should be an Oral History Project. The Clinton County Historical Society decided to take part in the project. With the help of Jeanne Temple there are more than thirty recorded interviews at the Society's Archives.

Hila Bross interviewed Ivan and Charlotte Estes at the Old Salt Box House on August 31, 1977 - the home of H. Manning and Hila Bross. This interview is on tape Number 2. The following information was extracted from this tape by Lois Fohl:

George Washington Estes, grandfather of Ivan Estes, came to Michigan October 16, 1845 from Porter, N. Y. He lived on 80 acres with the Post Office of Bingham in his house. He moved to the St. Johns area with his son Calvin and his brother James and continued as postmaster in his home.

In 1853 while the Detroit and Milwaukee R.R. was being extended, a land company was being organized to select land for a station and village site. John Swegles was to buy the land and his first purchase was from Mr. Estes who helped him to purchase 920 acres. In 1854 a board building was built which was used as a tavern and stage stop called The Clinton House. There was a murder there and Ivan's account of it is the first time it has been officially recorded. It was told to him by his Uncle Herbert, a veteran of the Civil War. He also had an Uncle George Albert who was the first male child born in St. Johns on October 3, 1856. Ivan's father, Lewis, was born in 1860.

The house at 106 Spring street could be the oldest house still standing in St. Johns. When it was remodeled a ball of string was found. Lewis was asked whether it might have been his. Such balls were usually made over a walnut. Upon cutting into this one a walnut was found in the center.

Spring street probably got its name from the springs that fed into the two cisterns used in case of fire.

Mr. Burroughs, Mr. Sturgis, John Swegles and Mr. Estes were sitting on a log one day discussing a name for the settlement. Mr. Estes suggested "John." A Mr. Newell was receiving boxes of goods for his store. One box had "St. Johns" painted on it. That board was nailed to a tree and the place became "St. Johns."

The village was incorporated October 15, 1857. Mr. Estes became the first marshall of the Fire Department. He also organized the first Baptist church. On his birthday in 1906 he was presented with a gold headed cane from the Fire Department by four-year old Ivan who thinks he remembers it because his grandfather always gave him peppermint candy.

Stephen Estes was in the Revolutionary War. Another Ivan Estes was in the War of 1812. A Herbert Estes was in the Civil War, and another Herbert was in the First World War. There were six Estes boys in the Second World War.

Reverend G. S. Northrup, grandfather of Mrs. Bross, lived next door to Ivan's grandfather. The minister asked for shingles to mend his roof. When he wanted to pay for them Mr. Estes said, "I will take it out in preaching." Later he was asked when he was coming to church. "I'll be there Sunday." And he was. Again he was asked the same question and his answer was the same. Still later when he was asked about the next installment his reply was, "If it is all the same to you, I'll call the deal square."

One early business in St. Johns was the Table Factory. Ivan's father, Lewis, was foreman of the Transportation Department - driving the horses. The Hayes Wheel Works made wooden spokes for the wooden wheels of trucks and automobiles during World War I. Ivan worked only one week pulling nails. There was a Triangle Truck Company where Fred Burt worked. The Wood Mill was a flour mill. One block east was the Bunday Mattress Factory. Elmer Emmons owned the cider mill which was the largest vinegar works in the world at the time.

GUNNISONVILLE---History, anecdotes etc,

Written by Alta Gunnison Pierce, July 18, 1958

Gunnisonville history in the beginning was really DeWitt township history so I will begin with a bit about what happened to the township itself. The entire area of Clinton county was originally one township, DeWitt, approved by an act of legislature March 23, 1836. The first town meeting was held at the home of Captain David Scott who had come to DeWitt in 1833. In March 1837 the township was divided in half. In March 1839 and March 1841 other divisions were made and DeWitt was left comprising the present area. A family had settled in what is now Maple Rapids in 1832 and two others at Eagle and Lebanon in 1834 and my grandfather, Elihu Gunnison, came in the fall of 1835.

These early settlers found roving bands of Indians, most of them belonging to the Chippewa tribe, or Saginaw-Chippewas as they were sometimes called. Okemos was chief of the Red Cedar band of the tribe and was called "Little Chief" because of his short stature. In the History of Shiawassee and Clinton counties published in 1880, I found some of the following interesting facts. "The Indians subsisted principally by hunting and fishing and during most of the year wandered about, but all had summer residences where they raised milder-Min, Indian name for corn, potatoes, beans, turnips, and sometimes melons, squashes and pumpkins. At one Indian village on the Shiawassee River, Indians too made maple sugar, which was of as good quality as any the white people made. They packed it in Mokoks (vessels made of birch bark) and buried it in the ground where it was kept in good condition for future use or sale."

I have heard my father, Warren Gunnison, say that he saw Chief Okemos many times and that the Indians stopped at Grandfather's frequently and at other settlers, especially if they thought they could get "firewater". There is no record of when Okemos was born but it is estimated as about 1788 judging from the time he was old enough to participate in the War of 1812 as a warrior at Sandusky, his first battle. He died December 4, 1858 about 70 years of age, at his camp on the Looking Glass River above the village of DeWitt. His remains, dressed in the blanket-coat and Indian leggins which he wore in life, were laid in a rough board coffin, in which was placed his pipe-hatched, buckhorn handled knife, tobacco and some provisions and thus equipped for the journey to the happy hunting ground, he was carried to the old village of Pe-shim-ne-con near Portland and there interred in an ancient Indian burial ground near the banks of the Grand River.

To Be Continued