

Clinton County Trails



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 2 1988 Looking For Your Roots? Come Visit Us.

A publication of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society

GUNNISONVILLE-continued

by Alta Gunnison Pierce

I believe my grandfather, Elihu Gunnison (1803-1877), was the first settler in what is now called Gunnisonville. He had come to Dixboro, Washtenaw county from New Bury, New Hampshire, his birthplace, about 1829. Had married my grandmother, Ruth Ann Pryer (1815-1895), there at Dixboro, March 11, 1833, she having come to Michigan from Alexander, New York in 1831. Some time in 1835, Grandfather walked to Kalamazoo where the Land Office was then situated, and took up twoeighties of land on Section 14, DeWitt township, from the Government. In the fall of 1835 he came here and built a shack on the place and in January 1836 he and grandmother and Uncle Alfred Gunnison, then six months old, came here to live. About that time there was talk of a canal being built across that state, to commence near Mt. Clemens (work was really begun on it there) following the Clinton, Looking Glass, and Kalamazoo Rivers to Lake Michigan. So sometime later in 1836 Grandfather took up two more eighties just east of the Whitney bridge in what is now Victor township. He moved and Uncle Jim Gunnison was born there May 21, 1837. Grandmother never liked it there, was homesick and the canal project fell through so they moved back to Gunnisonville in the spring of 1839. Then Grandfather built a log house on the east eighty, almost across the road from where the present Clements (Browder now) house stands. The frame house which stood where Mrs. Burke now lives was built in 1856 (burned Nov. 15, 1903) and they moved into it in the fall of that year. The little house to the East was built in 1865 and Uncle Jim and wife (Celia Southworth) occupied it as soon as it was built and their daughter Hallie was born there May 26, 1871.

My father thought that William Moore was the next settler to arrive, in 1836, and that

he took up four 'eighties on Section 23 across from Grandfather's but in looking it up, I find that a Francis Moore took up the eighty that Fred Angell now owns and that William Moore took up only three eighties. They comprise the Clements and Rupp farms but he took up land in sections 14 and 24 also. Major Olin bought the Francis Moore eighty later. Gilbert Cushman came next according to father in 1837 his place is where Doty Cushman now lives. Charles Cushman came next and lived where the Paul E. Dunham place is now but in the list of those taking up land from the Government, it is given as a Joshua Cushman and the date is 1836.

Father thought the first owner of the Kraus (Cathey now) place was a Mr. Bubbee of Bugsby but according to the land grants there is no one by that name on that section of land so he must have lived there later. North of the corner forty or between it and the Thomas Robbins place (McDonald now) was forty acres, Grandfather owned ten acres of it and Dr. Shank and Colonel Burr the other thirty, getting it from Thomas Lester, who owned them money, and at that time they must have owned the eighty on the corner where the church now stands for Grandfather traded his ten acres alongside his west eighty. Major Olin, at one time, lived in a log house on those ten acres and the house was all made of hwn logs, my father said.

In looking up the names of those who took up land from the Government on those four sections at the Gunnisonville intersection, I find the following dates, names and acreage.

SECTION 14. (N.E. Section-where church is now)

1835	--	Elihu Gunnison	-----	160 Acres
1836	--	Wm. A. Moore	-----	40 "
"	--	S.S. Bullock	-----	80 "
"	--	S. P. Morehouse	-----	240 "
"	--	Phillip French	-----	80 "
"	--	Harvey C. Boyd	-----	40 "
				<hr/> 640 Acres

SECTION 15. N.W. corner Section

1836	--	Wm. Hunt	-----	40 Acres
"	--	L. D. Jennison	-----	40 "
"	--	Wm. Roose	-----	80 "
"	--	Harvey C. Boyd	-----	120 "
"	--	Joshua Cushman	-----	80 "
1837	--	David Scott	-----	40 "
"	--	L. D. Jennison	-----	40 "
1843	--	Thomas Robbins	-----	40 "
1847	--	Elvira Robbins	-----	40 "
1851	--	Samuel Smith	-----	80 "
1854	--	Thomas Robbins	-----	40 "
				<u>640</u> Acres

SECTION 22, S.W. corner Section

1836	--	H.C. Boyd	-----	160 Acres
"	--	Joshua Cushman	-----	80 "
"	--	Sizer L. Stoddard	-----	80 "
"	--	Samuel Higgins	-----	80 "
1848	--	Daniel Gunderman	-----	40 "
1850	--	E.A. Gunderman	-----	40 "
"	--	William Vail	-----	40 "
				<u>520</u> Acres

SECTION 23, S.E. corner Section

1836	--	Francis Moore	-----	80 Acres
"	--	William Moore	-----	240 "
1843	--	Ruth A. Gunnison	-----	40 "
1850	--	Stephen W. Downer	-----	280 "
				<u>640</u> Acres

Some of those early pioneers even went to Detroit to get supplies and they marketed their grain at Dexter and at Pontiac, taking days to make the trip and to return. In 1847 a grist-mill was built at Wacousta and I have heard my father speak of one at Delta but that may have been built later.

The early highways were only Indian trails and the most important one was the one known as the Grand River trail, later called the Pontiac and Grand River road, which came from Detroit by way of Pontiac and through a corner of Genesee and Livingston counties, then N.E. to Byron and fording the Shiawassee River at a place called Knagg's Crossing, then on to what is now Laingsburg, then following the north bank of the Looking Glass river to DeWitt and on West. It was over this road that Grandma and Grandpa Gunnison came by ox team and sled in January, 1836. They had to go to DeWitt to cross the river then come back to their cabin in the wilderness. No roads in DeWitt township in those days and he had to mark trees to guide him on his way from DeWitt. There must have been an Indian trail from Grandfather's toward the Bug Hill for one of the traditional stories in our family is about Grandfather starting out for DeWitt over this trail with a large pail of eggs. He was astride a pony with only a blanket for a saddle and a rope across the pony's back and tied to make stirrups. Some noise or movement in the woods startled the pony and she jumped sidewise, throwing Grandfather off and unluckily his knee landed in the pail of eggs and you can imagine the result. He had to return home, no trading eggs for provisions that day.



Old Watertown Center School, Corner Francis Rd. & Clark Rd.,
Watertown Twp., Clinton Co., ca 1910.

1st Row: Monroe Maier, Louise Conrad Hemingway, Alfreda Maier,
Mabel Spicer, Flossie Welton, Paul Maier, Raymond Hunt, Lyman
Daniells, Winona Maier Showerman, Doris Welton;

2nd Row: Anna Lonier, Alexander Conrad, Vera Lemm Mankey,
Gladys Fleming, Leo Maier, Carl Gall, Lyndon Wessler, Ruth
Lowell Oliver;

3rd Row: Merle Spicer, Gerta Welton, Bertha Mae Conrad, Helen
Lowell, Persia Elliot Opdyke, Doris Chaplin Bissell, Lyle Spicer;

4th Row: Deone Lee Openlander, Melva King, Myrtle McCreery
Newman, John Welton, Herbert Maier.

Donated by Ray Stone, 827 DeGroff, Grand Ledge, 48837

HURD SCHOOL

The Clinton Republican, Oct 22, 1903, pg 1, col 1.

"...in those pioneer days our school desks were fastened to the walls around the room and benches instead of seats were so arranged that when the scholars were seated they had to face the walls of the house. So you see, the teacher had full sway of the floor and could easily detect the scholars in any of their roguish designs."

Ole Foerch, musician arranged, conducted for WWJ radio, TV

By Doug Bradford
News Staff Writer

Jan 21, 1988

It was before the turn of the century, in the St. Johns, Mich., cottage of an old violin maker named Jacob Foerch, that the town's local gentry gathered one night to ask the inevitable question of the new father: "Well, what are you going to call him?"

"I'm going to name him after the finest violinist in the world," Jacob Foerch said of his new son,



Ole Foerch

reaching for a catalogue in which were featured the artists of the day.

His eye fell upon the name of the Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, and so his son — who was not Scandinavian — became Ole Foerch. It was a name he carried well into the music world.

MR. OLE FOERCH died Sunday in Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn, after millions of organ and piano notes left his fingers and countless numbers of students learned how to play from him. He was 93 and had lived in Allen Park.

When he retired from an active musical life in 1959 to enter the teaching world in studios and in his

home, scores of Detroit religious and music leaders gathered at a reception for him.

At that time, Mr. Foerch had been the organist 18 years for Sunday morning services broadcast over WWJ radio and also for several years on WWJ-TV, both stations owned at the time by the Evening News Association, then the parent company of The Detroit News. Except for vacation times during those years, Mr. Foerch never missed a program of the Little Church of the Air and the Church at the Crossroads.

"Music was his whole world," said his son, Dr. Robert Foerch, and it also was the conveyance that carried him down a number of roads.

DURING WORLD WAR I, Mr. Foerch played clarinet in a Navy band under the reknowned John Philip Sousa. After his service stint ended in 1921, he came to Detroit by way of Chicago and other points to take the piano-organist bench at the old Broadway Strand Theater. He also became a student at the Detroit Conservatory of Music.

Later, he conducted the orchestra at the Majestic Theater where the Woodward Players were graduating many young performers into the higher echelons of show business.

He also was hired by WWJ as an organist about this time, and was assigned to organize and direct a station orchestra. With the help of Ty Tyson, famed Detroit Tiger base-

ball announcer, the band eventually became known as the Oleanders.

He soon was named musical director of the station, originating and writing one of its first shows, Barnacle Bill. He followed with The Grenadiers, and also wrote the music for such later shows as the Magazine of the Air and the Rex White dramas.

OTHER MUSICIANS regarded Mr. Foerch as an excellent arranger, fast and imaginative, marveling at his ability to take a concerto written for a large orchestra and rearrange it for a small band. It was an ability appreciated in radio's formative days.

He toured Europe and Mexico, visiting the ancient cathedrals and the great organs for which they were noted.

Mr. Foerch wrote music, including a special march titled *We Old Timers* for the Second Annual Old Timers Band Concert at the Belle Isle Shell in 1941. The program was sponsored by The News and the Detroit Federation of Musicians.

He taught organ and piano until near the end of his life.

SURVIVING are his son; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were Wednesday in the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, Dearborn, with burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Detroit. Memorial tributes may be sent to a charity of choice.

THE CLINTON REPUBLICAN.
ST. JOHNS, MICH. July 1, 1930.
FOERCH, JOHN

Born Feb. 9, 1848 in Baden, Germany. When 4 yrs. old he came to America with his parents to Canada. At age 19 he came with his bro. to Bingham Twp., Mich. He lived here 54 yrs. Married Apr. 21, 1873 to Melinda Feightling and married 47 yrs. Survived by children, George Edward, Mrs. Emma Kaaup, Fred, John Jr.; and 11 grandchildren. He was 1 of 13 children, 4 sisters, and 2 bros., Andrew and Jake living, Funeral at home Sun. with Rev. Armstrong off.

Gardner cem.

SURNAMEN FOUND IN BIBLES GIVEN TO THE
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

ABBEY	BYRAM	DRAKE	HAIRE	KNIGHT
ADAMS	BYRNES	DROUIN	HALL	KOENIGSKNECHT
ALBERS		DUGAS	HAMBLETON	KREIN
ALDRICH	CAMPBELL	DUNNEBECK	HAMILTON	KRESS
ALLEN	CARPENTER		HAMMER	KUSTER
ANDREWS	CASON	EAVEY	HAMMOND	
ARCHER	CEASER	EAEGLE	HARDENBURG	LANKFORD
ARENS	CHAPIN	EARL	HARPER	LANORE
ASHWORTH	CHAPMAN	EDGAR	HARRIS	LAYNE
AXTELL	CHASKES	EGBERT	HATFIELD	LEANOR
AYERS	CHILD	ELLIOTT	HAWK	LECKMAN
	CHUBB	ELLIS	HAYNES	LEET
BAIRD	CLARK	ELY	HAZARD	LELAND
BALL	COATTA	EMMONS	HEBEL	LERG
BARKDALL	COIN	ERNST	HENRY	LEWIS
BARKER	COLE	EVITTS	HESLIN	LICHT
BARRETT	COLETTA	EWING	HEWITT	LINK
BARRINGER	COLWELL		HICKS	LOLWELL
BATES	CORBIT	FAIVER	HIGH	LOUCK
BECK	CORNWELL	FEDEWA	HIGHARRE	LOWELL
BEEBE	COUTEURE	FENNER	HILDRETH	LUCK
BEGOIE	COVERT	FERCIOTT	HILL	LUECHT
BELLOWS	COWDRAY	FERGUSON	HILLER	LYNCH
BENJAMIN	COWLES	FIELDS	HINER	LYON
BENSON	COY	FEZLO	HITCHCOCK	
BINKHORST	CRAIG	FISK	HOFFMAN	MACHOLL
BISHOP	CRAMER	FITZPATRICK	HOLCOMB	MALENDO
BLAMPEID	CRANER	FLEAGLE	HOLLENBACK	MANNING
BLANK	CRANSON	FOOTE	HOWARD	MARZKE
BLIZZARD	CRAWFORD	FORSYITS	HOWAY	MASON
BOGS	CREGO	FOSELMAN	HOWEY	MASTERS
BORON	CRESSMAN	FRASER	HUISE	MATTER
BOUNTING	CRIST	FREEMAN	HUNT	MAYNARD
BOURDO	CRONKITE	FRINK	HYATT	MCALLISTER
BOWMAN	CROSLEY	FRISBIE		MCCAEBE
BR--NEY	CULTICE	FRYE	INGALL	MCCLINTOCK
BRAILEY	CUMMINGS	FULTON	INGERSOLL	MCCORMICK
BRALEY		FULTZ	INGHAM	MCGEE
BRAKINS	DARBYSHIRE		ISBELL	MCKINNEY
BRANCHEAU	DAVIDSON	GABERIEL		MCLAUGHLIN
BRAND	DAVIS	GAMBLE	JOHNSON	MCQUIN
BRIGGS	DAWSON	GILLET	JORAE	MCSHERRY
BRINK	DEAN	GOFF	JUDD	MCTAGGART
BRINKERHOFF		GOULD		MCVAY
BRITTON	DEBAR	GOYER	KALTZ	MEAD
BROKOW	DECKER	GRAVES	KANE	MEMHEW
BROSS	DENNISON	GREEN	KEHREN	MEYERS
BROWN	DICKERMAN	GRISWOLD	KELLCUTT	MILES
BRYANT	DIETER	GROGER	KELSEY	MILLER
BUCKLEY	DIROFF	GROW	KEMPF	MILLS
BUELL	DOBSON	GULICK	KEYES	MINDWELL
BULL	DOLLAR	GUNDERMAN	KEYS	MOON
BURK	DONALDSON		KINNEY	MOORE
BUTTNEY	DOTY		KIPP	MORRIS

MORRISON	PASCH	ROBINSON	SNYDER	UPTON
MORTON	PATRICK	RODWELL	SPENCER	
MOSS	PATTEN	ROGERS	SPRAGUE	VINCENT
MUDGE	PAYNE	ROHRER	SQUIRES	
MULFORD	PECK	ROOF	STAHL	WALDRON
	PEET	ROONEY	STAINTON	WARD
NEAL	PERRY	ROSE	STARK	WARNER
NEILL	PETERS	ROWLEY	STEAD	WARREN
NELSON	PHILLIPS	RYKER	STEAVEN	WARSTLER
NEWHOUSE	PHIPPENY		STEERE	WEBSTER
NEWMAN	PINNELL	SALTER	STEVENS	WHITTAKER
NEWTON	POWERS	SARGENT	STILES	WHITTEN
NICHOLAS	PRATT	SCANLON	STONE	WILCOX
NORRIS	PRESCOTT	SCHAFFER	STURGIS	WILEY
NOWTHRUP	PRICE	SCHANCK	SULLIVAN	WILLIAMS
NYE	PROLE	SCHEABLE	SUNDEEN	WILLROTH
	PUNCHES	SCHENDORF	SWANEY	WILLYOUNG
O'CONNOR	PUNG	SCHOENHOLS	SWANK	WILSON
OFFELS		SCHONLEIN		WINSHIP
OLIVER	QUINN	SCHROEDLER	TANNER	WOLCOTT
OLMSTEAD		SCHULTZ	TATRO	WORDEN
OPPENLANDER	RANCORE	SCOTT	TAYLOR	WRIGHT
O'RAFFERTY	RANDOLPH	SELFRIDGE	TERRY	WYMAN
OTIS	REED	SERGEANT	TEWELL	
OWEN	REICHARD	SHAFE	THOMPSON	YEO
OZIOS	REUST	SHAW	TINKLEPAUGH	YOST
	REYNOLDS	SHEFFELD	TRAVIS	YOU DEN
PAGE	RICE	SHIFFER	TURNBULL	YOUNG
PAINE	RIDENOUR	SHREBS	TURNER	
PARKER	RIDDLE	SHUMAN		ZUVER
PARKS	RIGGS	SILLMAN	UNDERDOWN	
PARSONS	RITZ	SMITH	UNDERWOOD	

Census Takers appointed for the Districts of Clinton Co.
March 10, 1910

John McGonical, Bath twp, Willam T, Shinner, Bengal twp,
George E. Foerch, Bingham twp. Arthur F. Stow, Dallas twp
Louis J. Voisinet, Dewitt twp , Willam I. Tilloson, Elsie
Village, James A. LeBeau , Duplain twp, Henry O. Brokaw
Eagle Twp, Robert Anderson, Essex twp, Alfred E. Jeffers,
Greenbush twp, Frank L. Burch, Lebanon twp, Louis J. Car-
penter, Olive twp, Ralph G. Auttman, Ovid twp, Mrs. Esther
R. Hunter, Ovid Village, Arthur Kincaid, Riley twp, Mrs.
Maude Zacharias, St Johns (first ward) Mrs. Viola Carr,
St. Johns, (second ward), Marshall F. Pitts, St. Johns
(third ward), Leroy Reed, Victor twp, Arthur M. Clark,
Water Town twp, Theodore N. Hengesbach, Westphalia, George
F. Hemingway, Westphalia twp,

Submitted by Janet M. Snyder

HIGBEE DISTRICT (evolved into the Pennington School)

The Clinton Republican, June 29, 1905, page 3, col 3:
"50 Odd Years Ago. In the Days When the School Ma'am Boarded 'round. District No. 3, Eagle Tp. Interesting History Written by Mrs. C. N. Hazard of Wacousta.in the early part of November 1850, when a young woman of 17-1/2 years went into what was then known as the Higbee District in Eagle township to teach their school, was found large well-tilled farms and an outlook more like an old country than any she had seen in her two-years residence in the then wild country. the schoolhouse, situated on the west side of the street nearly opposite the present structure was also built of logs, of fair size and arranged after the design then in vogue, as commodious as was then common in those days, but would be considered very inconvenient and even unendurable now. The term was for four months and compensation \$2 per week and board, the latter obtained by "boarding around," with the patrons of the school, the pupils always pleased when it came their turn to have the teacher board with them; and she was considered a guest and always cordially welcomed. A week consisted of five and one-half days, but for convenience every alternate Saturday was taught, and the intervening ones taken as a vacation. The money, except the "primary fund" which was then much less per school than now, was raised by rate bill, and occasionally a family would not send children to school unwisely prizing the education less than the small amount they would have to pay on their rate bill. Her roll contained the names of about fifty pupils with an average of nearly forty, and the school contained all the grades from the a-b-c-darian to advanced grammar and higher arithmetic, and all the classes were required to recite at least once a day and the younger ones at least twice. So there was no need to worry lest all her time should not be employed, but rather the problem was how to accomplish all in the time allotted; and in fact, it seldom was done, 6-1/2 [hours] and often 7 being the rule rather than the exception.

Six young men and six young women, all older than the teacher, attended that school, and it is now remembered with gratitude that they gave their entire attention to their studies, never once to her present recollection questioning her authority or failing to pursue earnestly the duties of the hour. Some of those were John and Olive Mansfield, Loretta Phillips, Joseph Hinman, John Howe, Lyman Wright, a daughter of Jeremiah Eddy, Abram Eddy, and other whose names are not now recalled. There were also several only a little younger and among whom were Daniel Howe, Abijah Schoff, Anna Beers, Sarah Burgess, Isaac Stark, a daughter of Mrs. Newsome, and others. Of the several quite young pupils, I think the youngest was little Alice Higbee, now Mrs. Chas. T. Andrus, and the rapidity which which she went from a, b, c to reading rapidly from a reader was a daily source of amusement and relaxation to the whole school, as well as to their teacher.

The residents of the district, not too far away for the teacher to walk, were, to the north, John Stark and David Burgess--the latter school director. Near the corners where afterwards Hugh Swyler lived, were Mrs. Higbee, her daughter, Lucy, and sons Edward and

Elisha, and the family of the latter; Dennis Macomber where now John Pennington lives who was, by the way, the nearest blacksmith to Wacousta. To the west lived Jeremiah Eddy and Mr. Phillips; South, Miles Mansfield, Mr. DeWitt, Curtis Hinman, Mrs. Newsom; and east of these (in another district) Philo Beers

.the teacher attributes a share of her success to a system of rewards in the shape of a series of school tickets printed on colored cardboard, each one bearing a motto or proverb and a figure designating its value. They were numbered like bills of money denominations of 1's, 5's, 10's, 20's, 50's, 100's, 2, 3, and 5 hundred. A No. 1 was given for each perfect lesson and it had to be perfect; then they were exchanged like money, 5 ones for a 5, a five and 5 ones for a 10, and so on. No child so small but they soon learned to tell when they had tickets enough to change, and early learned to count them even up to a 100 or more; and it was inspiring to all to hold the record of the absolutely perfect lessons they had learned.

The Archives has the original minutes of the Chas. E. Grisson G.A.R. Post, from 1913 to 1923.

These include information on Reunions, Camp Fires, Memorial Day and Grave side Services etc.

The book has been indexed. While most of the men were from the St. Johns area, there are some who transferred from other areas and also, as many of the smaller Posts disbanded as the years went by, the remaining members transferred to this Post.

Surnames;

Adams	Cunningham	Handshey	McDonald	Stewes
Annis	Curtis	Harris	McPherson	Stimson
Bailey	Diller	Hovey	Mentor	Stocker
Baker	Drake	Huggett	Miller	Stowell
Baron	English	Huss	Minard	Sutton
Bixby	Estes	Ingersoll	Mull	Trask
Blackman	Evens	Kimble	Murphy	Tucker
Bradner	Everts	Kinney	Norton	Tyler
Brink	Fields	Knickerbocker	Osgood	Vail
Brown	Fish	Kniffin	Parmalee	Valentine
Cartright	Fitzgerald	Krepps	Patterson	Walbridge
Case	Flynn	Krull	Perry	Watters
Chapman	Foster	Lee	Rouse	Welch
Collins	Frank	Leland	Shulters	Wells
Connell	French	LeRoy	Sitts	Wilson
Correll	Glenn	Loomis	Sowle	Young
Cornell	Grubaugh	Love	Stansell	
Cruson	Hamilton	McClintock	Stephenson	

From The Archives