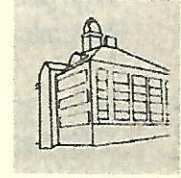




# CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS

Published by: Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879 - Phone: 517-482-5117 Ext. 2



Published Quarterly

December 2016

Volume 31 - Issue 4

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## Hiram Atwell Simmons

*Taught to the tune of a hickory stick ...*



Hiram A. Simmons [1857-1893], living with his parents in Riley Twp., began teaching in local schools at the age of 21. He faced this challenge probably having had no formal training in how to teach or to maintain discipline. He described this experience and coping with his unruly students in the following entries from his 1878 diary.

- Jan. 1** I enjoyed myself teaching school. Had a game of ball with the boys at noon.
- Jan. 3** Abbie told me not to let my angry passions rise in school. I did not let them rise very high, but I made two boys hold a book out at arm-length five minutes and cuffed another up to a peak.
- Jan. 8** I would not dislike teaching if the scholars would be friendly, take hold, and help to make it pass of pleasantly. But in this school they seem to think, because I am the teacher, I must rule. If I would govern, they'll not try to govern themselves.
- Jan. 10** Had to cuff my Irish lad up to a peak again today. I'll not say anything about the school, only if tomorrow was the last day, I should not cry.
- Jan. 11** My young ladies and gentleman acted in such a manner deserving of almost any other appellation. Thank fortune I am on the last half.
- Jan. 14** Adopted a new rule in school. Let them whisper to their seat mate.
- Jan. 15** School passed off very pleasantly with the exceptions that I have some young ladies in school who think they are too large to obey the simplest rules of school. I have stood their disregard to them long enough. Time will tell the results.

- Jan. 16** Yesterday the scholars chewed gum and whispered. Today I told them I should give marks for it, some of the large girls disobeying. After school I went and seen the Director (his daughter being one of the ladies) also the Moderator. I have their favor, am fearful for the result, but hope for the best.
- Jan. 17** Miss innocent (E.F.) tried to make a disturbance at noon by "bouncing me" for reporting her to the school board. I told her that I had stood all that I should from her and that she could do as the others did or take her books and leave. That quieted her.
- Jan. 18.** Had to cuff a boy today for making another spill some water. Set out early and walked home; 7:45 found me there, tired enough.
- Jan. 22** Whipped the two F. boys. The school passed off pleasantly enough otherwise, only the girls thought it was hard because I would not allow them to run and screech in the school house.
- Jan. 24** Tobacco using had become obnoxious to me (or the sweeping out of so much tobacco juice had) and so I forbid the use of it.
- Feb. 6** School passed off all right with an exception though. Some of the larger boys went off at noon and did not return until after school time.
- Feb. 7** I told the young men, who are large enough to be gentlemen, after acknowledging that they were chewing tobacco, that they could promise not to chew any more or leave. They stayed.
- Feb. 8** I am yet alive, but oh dear! I wish school was out. Three long, dreary weeks yet. Can I ever go through with them? I'm fearful, but I'll try.
- Feb. 11** Not much disturbance in school (punished one boy), but after school I had an awful time. The large boys seem to think themselves dreadfully abused because I will not allow them to chew tobacco in school. They fairly abused me. Can I stand it three more weeks?
- Feb. 12** Did not use any of my whips, but shook two boys. One of them I cuffed quite severely. Thirteen days more. My God, can I live through?
- Feb. 13** I kept the last night snowballers in at recess. I heard them plotting another storm tonight.
- Feb. 14** Kept the second class in at recess again for a snowball which came against the school house last night; also some girls for chewing gum. Otherwise, everything went off smoothly. No snowballs tonight.
- Feb. 17** Am I getting weaned from home? I think not! I'm getting better acquainted and if I could get along without any trouble in school, I could remain here quite a while. But I look forward to going home for good with pleasure.
- Feb. 19** If school passed off as pleasantly every day as today, I do not believe homesickness would trouble me much. The two young men were absent. That partially accounts for it. I snowballed with the boys and altogether we had a jolly time.
- Feb. 20** No trouble in school to speak of, although I whipped my Irish lad today and yesterday.

**Feb. 22** Wm. H. struck a match in school. I proposed a whipping or expellment. He chose the latter. Whipped Christopher.

**Feb. 25** Wm. H. came after his books. I hope I am through with him.

**Feb. 28** Sent Christopher home with his books after school.

Start of fall term in an Olive Twp. school

**Nov. 5** I do not believe it is my vocation to teach school for I have had trouble already and turned a scholar out of school.

**Nov. 6** The disorderly scholar of yesterday came together with his father this morning to see about returning to school. I told him, by taking the seat assigned to him, he might. He took it.

**Nov. 8** If I could always get along with as little trouble as I have had today, I should not dislike teaching.

**Nov. 13** Punished two boys, pulled two others' ears, and kept a girl after school.

**Nov. 14** The bitter must be mixed with the sweet. Yesterday it was seeming all trouble; today it has been as changed as the day itself.

**Dec. 2** A new student which makes 40 on the roll.

**Dec. 3** School passed off very well; kept three boys after school.

**Dec. 7** (Saturday) Had school to make up for last Friday--not a very large attendance; just enough to keep still and make it pleasant.

**Dec. 9** No trouble. Had a snowball at noon with the boys. Kept P.P. after school.

**Dec. 10** No trouble, but according to the usual custom, a scholar had to remain after school.

**Dec. 11** I could hear the wind moan a little around the school house if by chance there happened to be a lull in the din. Quite a full and pleasant school today.

**Dec. 17** I think I have the good wish of the scholars, or the majority of them at least, but still I am not exactly contented or satisfied with my business.

**Dec. 31** As I look out of this school house window as I am writing in this diary on the last day of the year, I can compare today with my life during the past year—neither all sunshine nor stormy.

Note: The first school in the diary entries above may have been in Bengal Twp. according to James F. Baxter who transcribed it and also Simmons's 1879 diary. Transcriptions of both diaries are held by the Archives of the CCHS.

## Wacousta Community United Methodist Church 1866- 2016



On Sept. 22, 2016, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wacousta Community United Methodist Church was celebrated at the Grand Ledge Opera House with a dinner, music, prayer, and recollecting.

A worship group had been formed in 1864, the likely germ of the future church. Initial members were: Horatio & Arseneth Garlock; Ira & Mary Garlock, Levi Garlock; Major D. and Adelia Lockwood; Genett Lowell; and Mary Ann Wright.

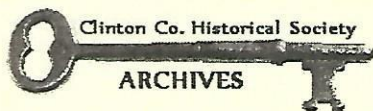
Services were held in the schoolhouse until a church was erected in 1867. This original wooden building was replaced with a stone structure in 1915. Classrooms were added in 1960 and in 1980 the sanctuary was rebuilt. So, over the years the facility has been enlarged and remodeled numerous times to modernize and accommodate an expanding congregation. Today the site at 9180 West Herbison Road, Eagle, contains an attractive church building, again remodeled in 2004 with a new chapel, adjoining memorial garden, and spacious parking areas.



In the last several years the church has sponsored a well-attended Farmer's Market held on the third Thursday, July through Sept. in the parking lot. Besides local produce, the market offers food booths and live music.

This church has been a nurturing center of activity in the Wacousta area since its inception and to this day offers a spiritual foundation and fellowship with its various activities.

Information gathered from: *Clinton Co. Republican-News*, 23 Aug 1906; and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program book.



## 2016 SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER:

### CHURCHES:

- ◆ - The Catholic Weekly; St. Joseph Church, St. Johns, MI; Lansing Diocese, 29 May 1955; 24 pp

### FAMILY FILE:

- ◆ Orietta **Faiver** First Communion Certificate 26 Jun 892; St. Joseph Catholic Church; 8 x 11"

### GENEALOGIES:

- ◆ **Hepfer** Family History, German to U.S.A.; Dwane V. **Norris**; 1983; indexed; 8 1/2 x 11; unbound; 135 pp
- ◆ **Hurd** Family; Randy **Glidden**, M.D.; 1980-1981; 8 1/2 x 11; unbound; 9 pp.

### HISTORIES:

- ◆ CITY OF ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN, CHARTER; Including Amendments to July 1, 1950; 6 x 9"; red cover soft bound
- ◆ THE HISTORY OF MICHIGAN'S CAPITOL; Compiled, Published and Circulated by Mortimer F. Larner, Photographer; Lansing, MI; 6 x 9"; stapled; 20 pp
- ◆ The Oldsmobile Story, 1897-1997; Community Newspapers, Official Oldsmobile Keepsake Edition, August 1997; stapled booklet; 98 pp

### INDEX:

- ◆ BAPTIST BRETHREN RECORD BOOK Index [CH 148]

### LAND RECORDS:

- ◆ Warranty and Land Deeds 1862 - 1916; digital data copies

### NEWSPAPERS:

- ◆ The St. Johns Sentry; March 18, 1882; 18 x 23"; 4 pp; photocopied

### PHOTOS:

- ◆ Fowler Public School Juniors Class Photo; 1953-1954; 7 x 5"; b/w
- ◆ Wacousta mill; 4 1/2 x 3"; b/w
- ◆ Wacousta road with high river; 3 1/2 x 2 1/2" ; b/w

- ◆ Wacousta Old Schoolhouse; 2 1/2 x 3 1/4"; b/w
- ◆ Douglas & Chester **Miller**; Roger & Rowlan **Smith**; Violete & Bernita **Coffman**; Keneth **Speerbrecker**; Lyle & Dale **Huguelet**; Virginia, Ann & Eleanor **Pearson**; Lee **Chant**; Phyllis **Plowman**; Marilyn, Maxine, & Richard **Chant**.
- ◆ Viges [cd] family photos, etc. [Needs to be indexed.]
- ◆ St. Johns High School 1915; postcard; 5 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w
- ◆ Clinton County Brd of Supervisors, 1965-66; 8 x 10, b/w
- ◆ St. Johns High School Baseball Team, 1932, 5 1/4 x 3 1/2"; b/w
- ◆ Leon **Klees**, 2 1/2 x 4"; b/w
- ◆ Nelson **Buddee**; 2 1/2 x 4"; b/w
- ◆ Clinton County Pomona Grange; 6 1/2 x 4 1/2"; b/w; entertained by Banner Grange
- ◆ Clinton County Pomona Grange; Grange Degree team; 5 x 4"; b/w
- ◆ Marjorie **Peck**, Rosella **Desprez**, Letha **Bullard**, front: ?, Dorothy **Beck**; 2 7/8 x 4 3/4"; b/w

### SCHOOLS:

- ◆ Yearbook 1950; Fowler Hi-Lights; 8 1/2 x 11" hardcover; 50 pp.
- ◆ Yearbook 1951; Fowler High Lights; 8 1/2 x 11"; hardcover; 40 pp
- ◆ Yearbook 1952; F.H.S. HI-LIGHTS; 8 1/2 x 11"; hardcover; 52 pp
- ◆ Yearbook 1953; FOWLER HI LIGHTS; 8 1/2 X 11"; hardcover; 55 pp.
- ◆ Yearbook 1954; Fowler Hi-Lights; 8 1/2 x 11"; hardcover; 55 pp.
- ◆ Yearbook; 1949 Bath Couzenite; 8 1/4 x 10 1/4; blue soft cover; 77 pp.
- ◆ Mohnke photos of multiple schools in the county; 8 1/2 x 11"; 3 ringbinder. [Needs to be indexed.]
- ◆ One Room Schools pictures scanned at the June 2016 potluck, CD, brown binder [Needs to be indexed.]

### NAMES RESEARCHED:

Bennett, Bixby, Brown, Burman, Burnett, Cogswell, Courtland, Crampton, Decker, Doyle, Durfey, Eddy, Estes, Fandel, Fox, Garlock, Goerge, Hart, Hicks, Hile, Hopkins, Howe, Huston, Miller, Morgan, Mull, Pierce, Reynolds, Schroder, Scott, Snow, Stackweather, Stephens, Thayer, Thelen, Tucker, Volmer, Wacker, Wilcox, Wise, Woodman

## World War II - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Submitted by Kim Sperry

75 years ago, December 7, 1941, war came to the United States. It came quickly and without warning as Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. Within two days this country was at war with Germany, Japan and Italy. And of course, men from Clinton County enlisted and were drafted to support the Allies. One of these men was Raymond D. Sperry, he was the only child of Dean & Luella Sperry of Olive Township. He was a supply officer for the 313<sup>th</sup> 79<sup>th</sup> Division of the Army. His family has donated copies of maps that detailed the three year service of him.

There is a series of four maps showing the movement of the U. S. Army 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, under the command of Major General Ira T. Wyche. The series begins with the D-Day landing in Normandy in June 1944, and shows several months as they Unit moves through France, Belgium and the Rhine Valley, ending on Victory in Europe Day. These maps were printed in Dortmund, Germany. They were created by Stan Kaliher and Harry D. White and printed by Fritz Busch Druckereiges MBH Dortmund, Germany.

The European map is the one that Ray Sperry carried with him throughout his deployment.

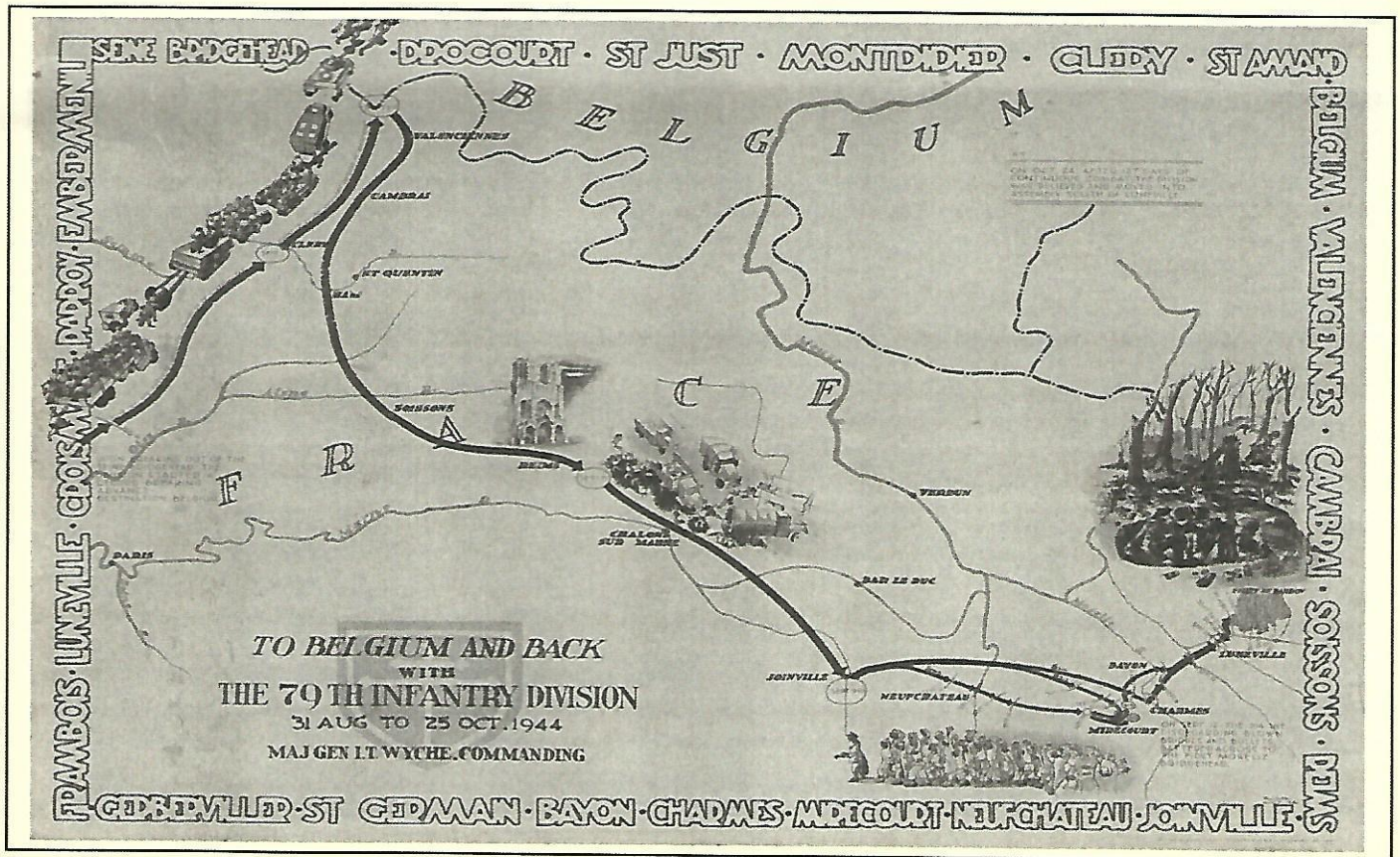
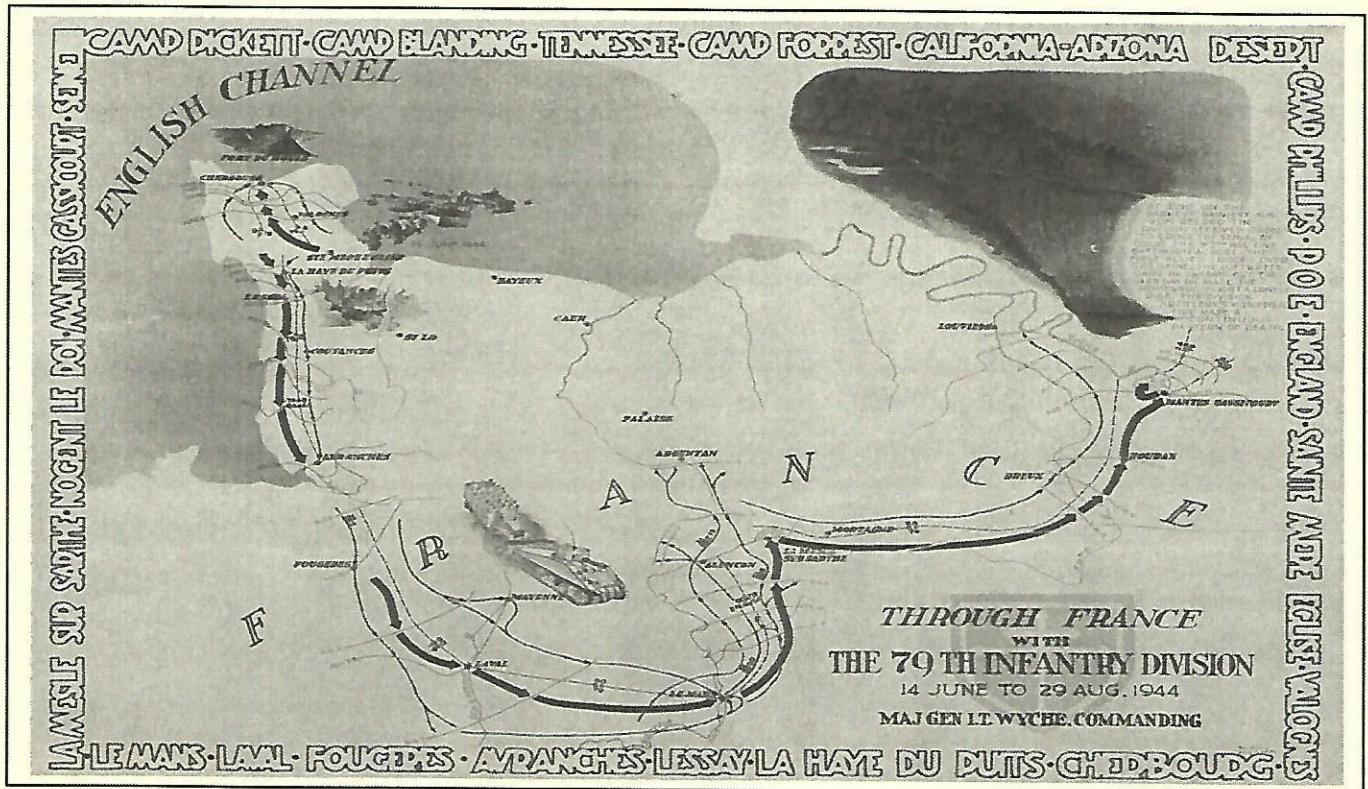
A couple of stories that were told by Ray to his family, he didn't talk much about the war.

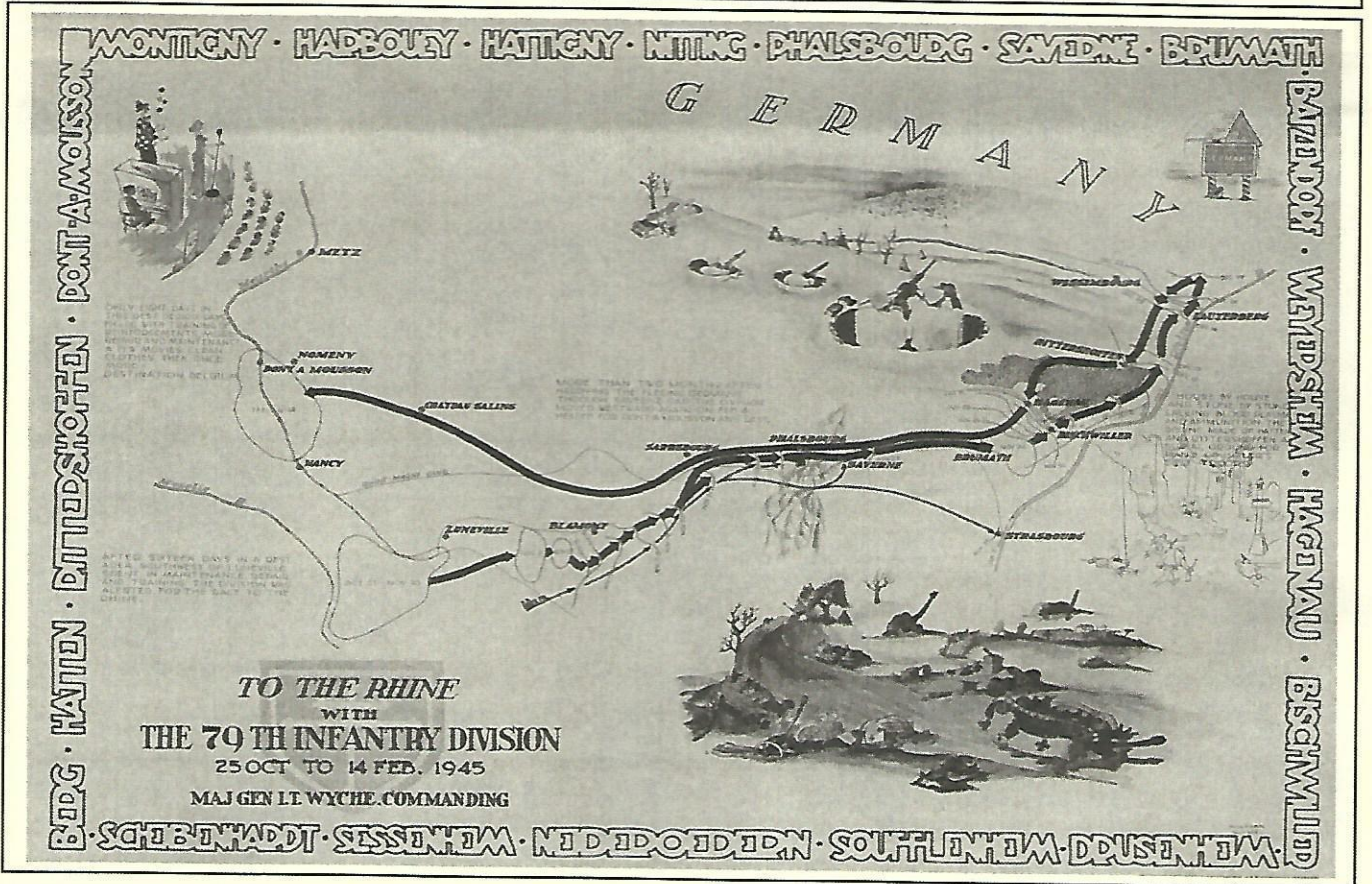
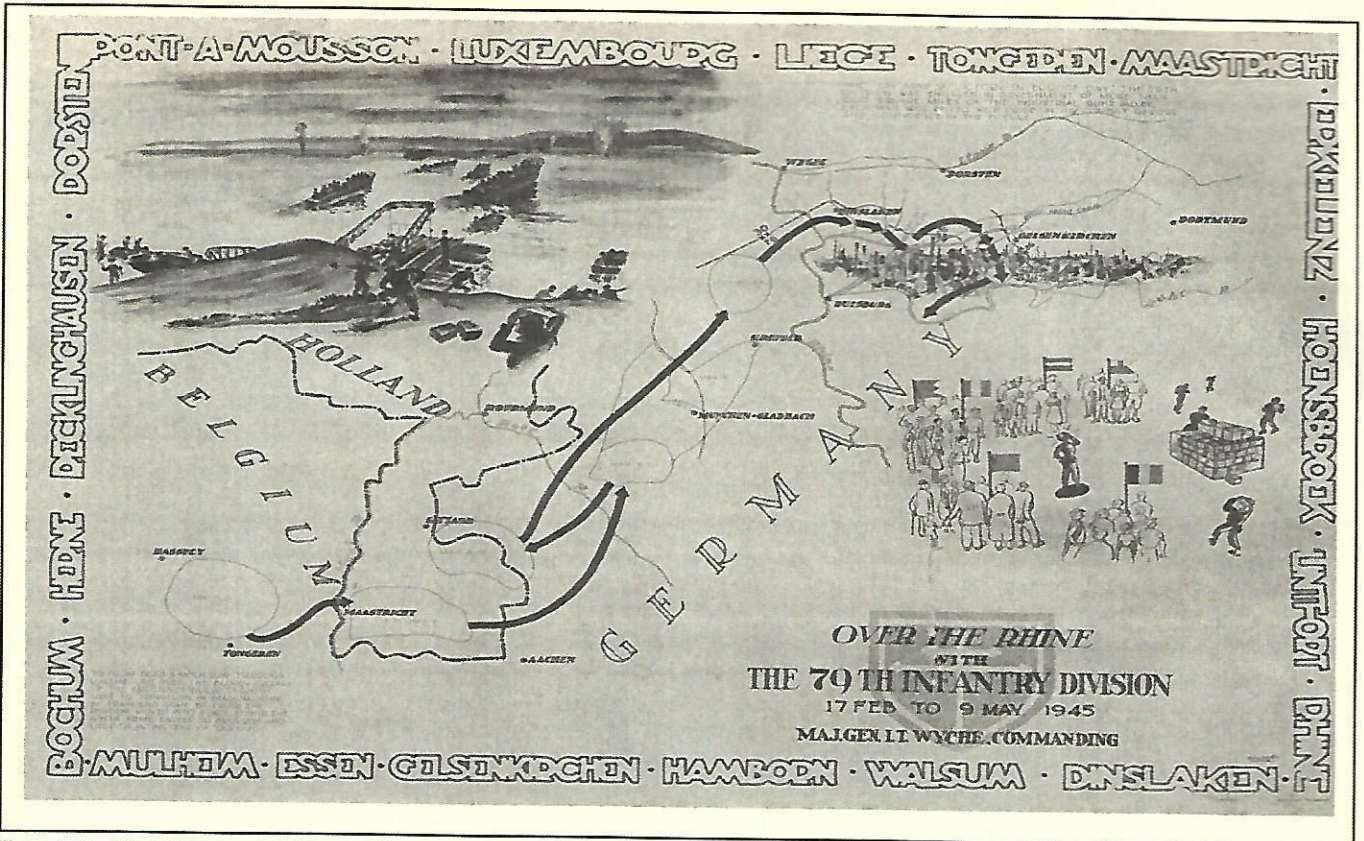
- There was one time he was transporting some soldiers and sniper fire started and the men jumped off the jeep and ran for cover, Sperry, driving continued on, then quickly realized the men that were with him left, but he went back for them and got them and sternly said if you get off again I'm not coming back for you.
- Christmas packages were a special treat and as they were opening them and enjoying the contents, some German soldiers came into the barn where they were settled and so Ray and the others quickly ran out the back door, thus leaving their Christmas package.
- Part of the time, the 79<sup>th</sup> was assigned to Patton's regiment and Ray was honored to be serving under the famed general.

[https://archive.org/stream/HistoryOfThe313thInfantryInWorldWarII/HistoryOfThe313thInfantryInWorldWarII\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/HistoryOfThe313thInfantryInWorldWarII/HistoryOfThe313thInfantryInWorldWarII_djvu.txt) is a text of the history of the 313<sup>th</sup> Infantry in World War II if anyone wants more information on this unit.

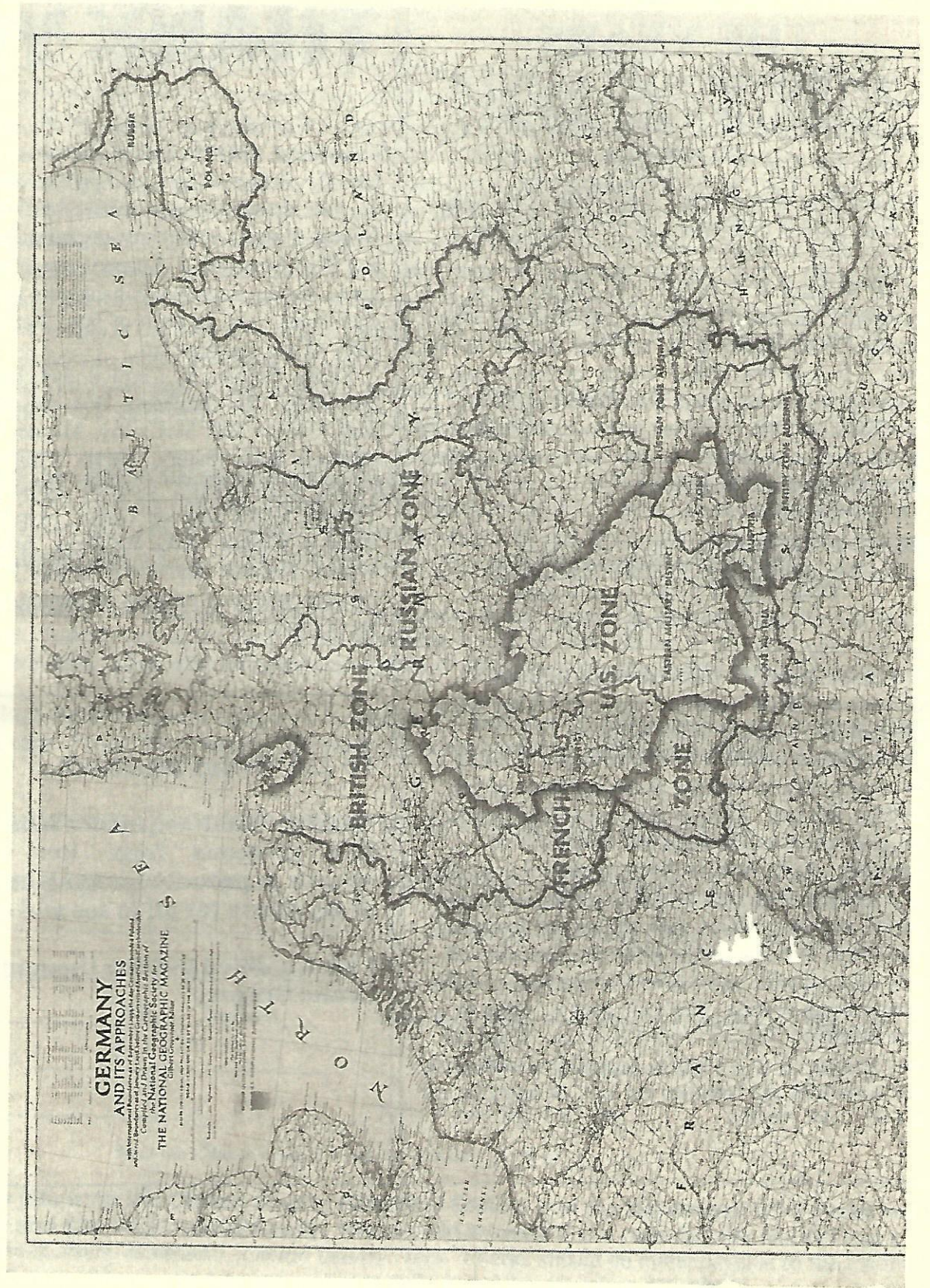


Raymond D. Sperry – Corporal – U.S. Army – WWII









# BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

Newz from Early Papers - courtesy of  
archives staff & other discerning  
researchers

-----  
*Clinton Republican* and *St. Johns News* files reveal  
cross section of former days in Clinton County

“ Last Monday K. VanFleet’s horse got down in a snow bank, in trying to get past a load of logs which someone had tipped over and left almost in the track. It took the united efforts of three men to extricate the beast, which was almost exhausted in its efforts, and Mr. VanFleet had to call a veterinary on his arrival to town. It was worse after getting home and died before morning.

*C.R. - 29 Mar 1900 p.2. c.4*

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### “Pathetic Wedding Scene”

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Bride Dies in Bridegroom’s Arms  
While Her Family Weeps

Cincinnati, April 9 – Detective Fred Hayes of Chicago and Miss Jeanette Evans of Chicago were married here Monday under peculiar circumstances. Miss Evans came here a week ago to prepare for the wedding at the residence of her sister in this city. She was taken suddenly ill with the grip, and it was thought she would die on Saturday. Hayes was notified and arrived yesterday. A marriage license was secured and the ceremony performed while Miss Evans was on her death bed. The scene, with the weeping family about the bed, was very pathetic. Soon after the ceremony, Miss Evans began sinking. The bride died at 1:30 p.m. The ceremony was performed at 6 a.m. When she was sinking about 1 o’clock, he took her in his arms and soon after she breathed her last. *CR, April 1901, p.3 c. 4*

# THANK YOU

To all our "family" of very special, exceptional CCHS volunteers who consistently provide all the many hours and services essential to the successful performance of the Clinton County Historical Society organization, Archives and PGS Museum... I cannot say it better than to quote Shakespeare "I say thank you, thank you and ever thank you" to each of you, you are the very heart of our organization.

Henry Burkhardt, Carolyn and Bud Delevan, Jan Dunn, Rex Fergeson, Don and Ruth Hinkle, Judy Hubler, Bill McCarthy, Marion Marek, Ron Matson, Julie Peters, Gayla Phillips, Rowlan Smith, Kim Sperry, Colleen Sutherland, Ralph Temple, Elmer and Jan Upton, Myrna Van Epps, Ethelyn Walker, Judy Williams, Judy Winslow, Wayne Summer and Gerri Wyble. And to the spouses who help provide the delicious snacks for break time.

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**TO ALL THE CCHS STAFF..**

**WOW!!! What a special Christmas gift!  
The gorgeous huge live Christmas  
wreath is proudly hanging on the front  
of my house for all to see and enjoy.**

**I am humbled by your thoughtfulness.  
Lynne Gregory**

## BATH SCHOOL DISASTER

Hello CCHS Genealogists,

Hope you're doing well! I visited in September, as I was conducting some research on the Bath disaster. I appreciate your help then, and was hoping I could ask you about something else, even though I know this is kind of a shot in the dark. ☺ In addition to studying era coverage of the Bath tragedy, I am also looking at memorial coverage that has occurred in the years since. On April 17, 1996, Dateline NBC aired a piece on Bath entitled "Blood Bath." It was one of 4 segments aired during that episode (the others were "Past Due; Crash Test; Judgment Day"). This episode is not available online, and NBC Archives does not allow people to buy DVDs of their shows, or even transcripts. So, that leaves me with just trying to find out if someone recorded it via VHS back then. Do you happen to know any area citizens who might have recorded this episode back in 1996, and would still have a copy that I could either purchase or borrow? Again, I know this is a long shot, but I figured there had to be some people in the Bath area who recorded this episode. Any help or referrals you could offer would be amazing! Thanks so much, and have a great day! ☺

Sincerely, Amie M. Jones, PhD Candidate, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communications  
210 S. Jackson St., Athens, GA 30602-1633; 706-207-1882 or <http://grad.uga.edu>

The **Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society** is located at 16101 Brook Road in Dewitt Township 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 Thursday. Phone: 517-482-5117 Ext. 2. E-mail: [ccgensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ccgensoc@yahoo.com)  
Web page: [dewittlibrary.org/CCHS](http://dewittlibrary.org/CCHS). CCHS members have free usage of the Archives, non-member cost: \$5.00 fee per day.

The **Historical Society** meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm Nov. through March and at 7:00 p.m. Apr. through Oct. at the First United Methodist Church on State Street, at the northeast corner of the courthouse square in St. Johns, with entry through the south backdoors. Regular meetings are not held in June & December.

The **Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum** complex is located on the west side of the courthouse square in St. Johns. [www.pgsmuseum.com](http://www.pgsmuseum.com). To join the Friends of the Museum, contact them at: [pgs.museum@hotmail.com](mailto:pgs.museum@hotmail.com); or PGS Museum, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

List 5 Names you are Researching: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have permission to share your information with other

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

researchers: (please circle Yes or No on each):

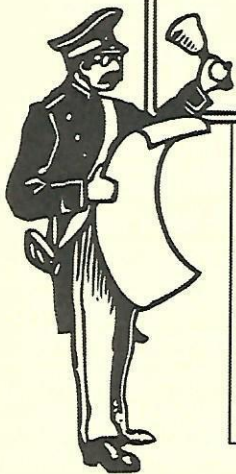
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Address: Yes No

E-Mail: Yes No

Send me Clinton County Trails by e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Annual Dues to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are \$15.00 single and \$20.00 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.**



## It's dues time again!

A hard copy of the newsletter is being mailed to all of our members. Please check the expiration date in the upper right hand corner on your address label. If it shows the date of Dec. 2016 please send us your renewal. Thanks.

