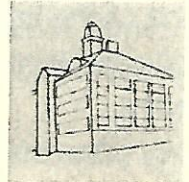




# CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS

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## A Mid-Michigan Connection to World War I's Greatest Hero

By Wayne Summers

The greatest hero of World War I was undoubtedly **Sergeant Alvin York**. While the story of his heroism leading to a Medal of Honor and a movie starring Gary Cooper is well known, most are not aware of his family's connection to mid-Michigan.

Sergeant York's maternal grandfather was **William H. Harrington**. William was born in New York State in 1845 and came with his parents, **William M.** and **Elizabeth (Brooks) Harrington**, to Michigan in the 1850's. The Harrington family labored on farms in Montcalm County's Bloomer Township and North Shade Township in Gratiot County.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, young William traveled to Detroit to enlist in the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics; however, he was rejected and sent back home for being underage. Once he turned 18 he successfully joined Company A of the 11<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry on September 21, 1863, at Sheridan, Michigan.

Over the next year, William's company traveled south into Kentucky and Tennessee. There the red-haired horseman met and fell in love with 17 year-old **Nancy Pile**. Not wanting to leave her, he deserted from the Union cavalry on September 12, 1864, while stationed at Big Sandy River, Kentucky. After deserting he joined with the Rebel forces for a short time, but soon left them too and hid out in the mountains of Tennessee until the end of the war. It was at some point during this time that he changed his name. Taking his mother's maiden name, he began to go by the alias of **William Brooks**.

Nancy's father, **Elijah Pile**, gave the newlywed couple a farm, and William and Nancy settled into a farm life in Fentress County, Tennessee.

The Pile family had been divided in their allegiance during the Civil War. While none had fought, Nancy's brothers had aligned with different sides in the war. A Northern sympathizer brother, **Coonrod (or Conrad)**, was taken prisoner by Confederate troops in the

of 1863. As they escorted him along the road shots were fired and he was left behind to die. In June of the following year his brother **Jeff**, a Southern sympathizer, was killed while riding unarmed along the Byrdstown Road by independent Union militia troops under the command of **Tinker Beaty**.

One of Tinker Beaty's men was **Preston "Pres" Huff**. Confederate troops had killed his father and the Pile family believed Pres had taken his revenge by killing **Jeff Pile** because he was a known Southern sympathizer.

On August 8, 1866, William's wife Nancy gave birth to a daughter who they named **Mary Elizabeth Brooks**.

**William Brooks** would often get in tense arguments with **Pres Huff**. Along with blaming him for the death of his brother-in-law, he also believed Pres Huff was plotting to take his land away. This led to a heated confrontation in Jamestown where Huff threatened to kill him the next time they met. William, and possibly one or more other Pile family members, taking the law into his own hands, waited along a road at a point he knew **Pres Huff** would pass. There **Pres Huff** was shot and killed on May 14, 1867. The Pile family claimed it was a preemptive strike before **Pres Huff** was able to carry out his threat while the Huff family claimed the motivation for the murder was to steal \$400 Pres was said to have had on him at the time. After consulting with his father-in-law, William high-tailed it to his parent's shack in North Shade Township, Gratiot County, Michigan. Later Nancy, along with her young daughter, slipped out of town and headed north to be with her husband.

A while later, Huff's family intercepted a letter from Nancy which gave away their location in Michigan. Papers of extradition for murder were drawn up and **Ely Hatfield** was sent to retrieve William. Hatfield was Pres Huff's brother-in-law, business partner, and had been the captain of an independent Union militia that Huff had been a part of prior to joining Tinker Beaty's.

At St. Johns, Michigan, Mr. Hatfield enlisted **Deputy Sheriff Avery** to help him arrest **William Brooks**. Upon arriving at the Harrington log shanty in North Shade Township a little after midnight on August 8, 1867, the Harringtons at first raised guns in defense, but then allowed the arrest to take place without shots being fired. **William Brooks** was brought to the St. Johns jail and then taken back to Tennessee.

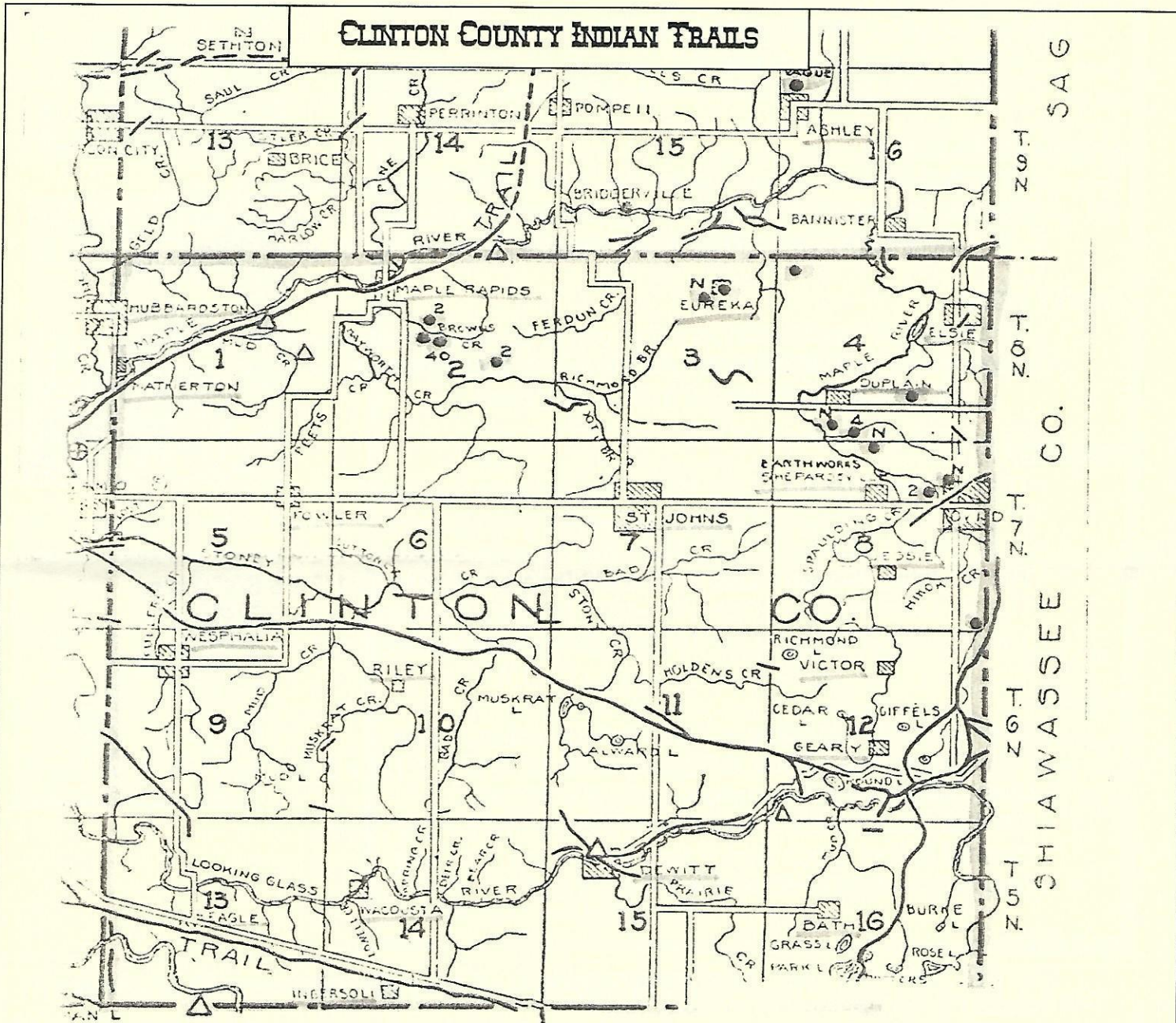
On September 20, 1867, **Pres Huff's** family and supporters, including **Eli Hatfield**, broke William out of the Jamestown jail after dark. They carried him down the road toward Pall Mall. Knowing death was imminent; he begged to be allowed to see his wife and daughter one last time. Ignoring his pleas, they tied him to a horse and dragged him down the road while filling his body with bullet holes. The Huff family later claimed they had acted out of fear **William Brooks** would be found not guilty by a jury due to the influence of the Pile family. This seems to have been true on the other side also as none involved in **William Brooks'** murder were found guilty.

At the time of his death, Nancy was pregnant with their son **William M. Brooks** who was born on March 30, 1868, sporting his father's red hair. Their daughter **Mary Elizabeth** at the age of 15 would later marry **William Uriah York** and be the mother of eleven children, including **Sergeant Alvin York**. As for **Eli Hatfield**, his life ended on June 27, 1877, when unable to pay creditors he took out his old army pistol and ended his life.

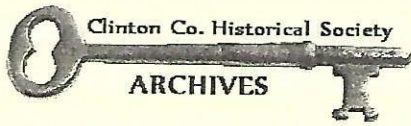
Ten years later **Alvin Cullum York** was born. In 1918 he would kill at least 25 enemy soldiers and capture 132 at great risk to his own life and be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Beginning with the decision of a lovesick Union cavalryman from Gratiot County to desert, the stories of two families and World War I were forever changed.

[Sources: *His Own Life Story and War Diary* by Tom Skeyhill; *Sergeant York and His People* by Sam K. Cowan; *Clinton Republican* 9Aug1867; military, census, court, and cemetery records]



**DAYS OF YORE**—This map from Hinsdale's "Archaeological Atlas of Michigan" shows the old Indian trails, Indian village locations and sites of pre-historic mounds in Clinton county and three adjoining counties. The trails are designated by the heavy lines, the villages by triangles and the mounds by dots. The atlas lists 60 mounds discovered in Clinton county. The map is reproduced by courtesy of E. F. Greenman of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology.



# Recent Acquisitions

*The Archives Update...* **2017 DECEMBER – 2018 FEBRUARY:**

## AUDIO FILES: (Julie's computer)

- Adele Jones - 80th Birthday party
- Adele Jones - Family Gathering
- Adele Jones talking about the Greenbush Marsh (3 audio files)

## CHURCHES & CLERGY:

- First Methodist, St. Johns; Centennial of the First Methodist Church, St. Johns, Michigan, August 1955; Edited by The Centennial Publications Committee (Mrs. C. W. Lumbert, B. Stanley Pocus, Lawrence Sexton); 6 x 9"; 33 pp.

## FAMILY FILES:

- Certificates of Qualification as a Competent Operator and Instructor of John Bean Fire Equipment for A. F. **NEWMAN** (Arthur) and G. **HALTERMAN**; no date (ca 1950's); photocopies; 8 1/2 x 11"/ b/w

## ORGANIZATIONS:

- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1965-1966 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 16 pp.
- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1967-1968 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 20 pp
- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1968-1969 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 18 pp
- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1969-1970 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 24 pp
- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1970-1971 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 24 pp
- The St. Johns Woman's Club 1971-1972 Program Booklet; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; 24 pp

## PHOTOS:

- Olive Center Group Photo, ca 1950's, 5 1/4 x 3 1/2", b/w
- Olive Center Group Photo & School house, ca 1950's, 5 1/4 x 3 3/4", b/w
- Olive Center Group Photo, Nov. 1953, 8 x 10", b/w
- Marshall School Group Photo, March 1954, 6 1/4 x 4 1/4", b/w
- Marshall School Group Photo, April 1955, 7 x 5 1/2", b/w
- French School, 1957-58, K-8, 6 x 4 1/2", b/w

## PLAT BOOK:

- DeWitt Township, 1941; hand written by clerk; 14 1/2 x 12"; hardcover; 39 pp (Index included in PB 108)

## TAX RECORDS:

- DeWitt Township Taxes & Assessments; 1970; 15 1/2 x 17 1/2"; Semi-hardcover; 560 pp
- DeWitt Township Taxes & Assessments; 1975; 14 1/2 x 17 1/2"; hardcover; ca 560 pp

**NAMES RESEARCHED:** Bearndt, Brya, Burke, Classen, Crampton, Davis, Jamison, Jury, McCord, Parks, Reynolds, Scott, Simon, Snow.



*Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night  
stays these couriers from the swift completion of  
their appointed rounds.*

✓ **SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL POTLUCK**

The theme for this year is Clinton County Postal Carriers and Post Offices. We are looking for photos and/or stories of your family connections to Clinton County postal history. Please send what you have to share to our e-mail [ccgensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ccgensoc@yahoo.com) or have your local post office send it to PO Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879 by the end of May. There will be photo scanning available at the potluck. All Clinton County related photos are appreciated.

- ✓ **POTLUCK INFO:** June 28, 2018; 6 – 8:30 p.m.; AgroLiquid, 1130 S. DeWitt Rd., St. Johns. Please bring a dish to pass and place setting. Drinks will be furnished.

**PLEASE PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ✓ **NOTE:** If you have a Clinton County ancestor who served in WW I you can help us honor his/her name by sharing photos, letters, documents or other artifacts relating to his/her service to our country. Museum staff can scan the item so you can keep the original, or they will gladly accept them as donations to the museum where they will be preserved for future generations, if that is your wish.

Contact the museum at 989-224-2894 and leave a message, or e-mail [pgsmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:pgsmuseum@hotmail.com).

**The Annual Clinton County Historical Society election meeting will be held May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the First Methodist Church in St. Johns.**

**Out of new places to look for family information?**

Check for your family surname on eBay. You might turn up a book, letter, postcard, document, or some other useful item related to your ancestry. Checking for your ancestor's home towns, churches, schools, colleges, Civil War regiments, World War II units or naval vessels, or other keywords might also pay off with some surprise treasures. (Internet Genealogy/ Family Chronicle Newsletter Vol 1 #23)

# BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

The Grand Ledge Mining Co. are engaged in erecting a hoisting derrick at their coal mine in Eagle, and with the necessary cages and cars expect to commence raising coal to the surface by steam next week. **Mr. Crumb**, the new manager is pushing the work as rapidly as possible. Railroad officials were expected here yesterday to arrange for putting in a side-track to the mine. ---Grand Ledge Independent *SJN-28 Aug 1890*

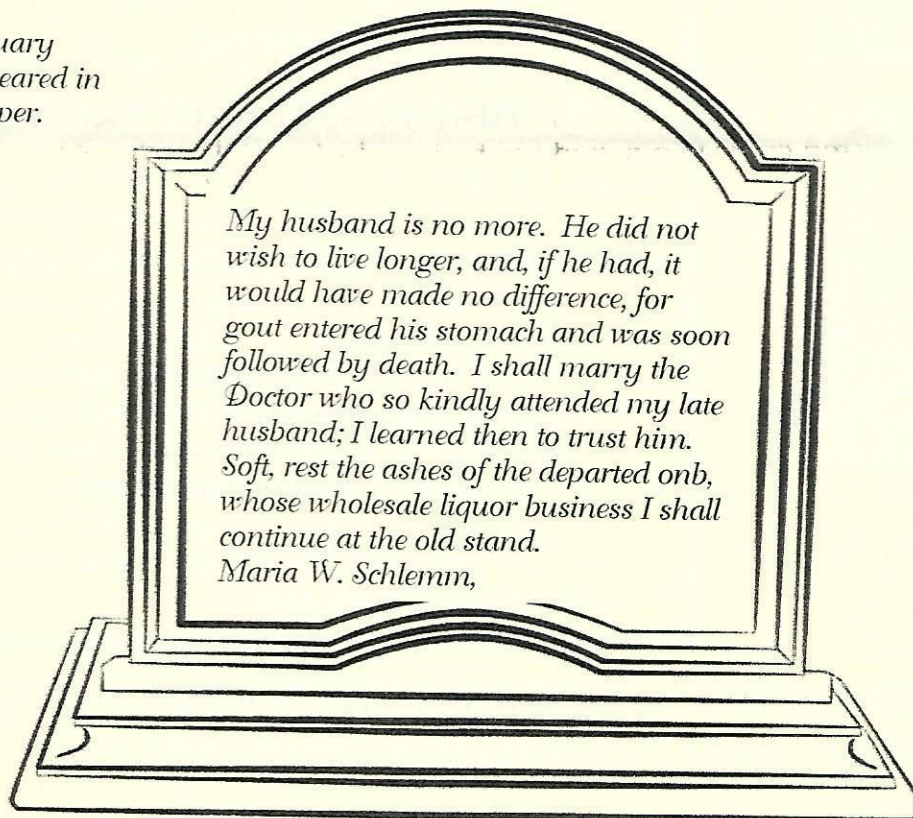
➤ If anyone knows anything about the Grand Ledge Mine, please contact Lynne Gregory or the Archives.

Eight barrels of beer were emptied in the creek at Westphalia the other day by direction of the internal revenue agent, *Otis Fuller*. (*SJN - 28 Aug 1890*)

*Items that make you wonder what they were reporting .....*

- A stop watch and safety can be seen almost any time of day at the park. Safety records will have to go.
- The leading question at the institute is "Have you got to be examined?" Examination occurs next Saturday. (*SJN - 28 Aug 1890*)
- Ad: Hotel Offering "WARM OUTSIDE ROOMS" (ARE THE OTHER ROOMS COLD?)

*The following obituary notice recently appeared in a German newspaper. (CI 21 Jun 1867)*



- Lightning burned out a fuse, and the wind blew a tree on the wires last Friday night, making repairs to the electric light line necessary Saturday.
- A sky rocket set fire to the barns of the Northern Hotel on the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>, and but for timely discovery a disastrous conflagration would have followed. There were 100 horses in the barns at the time.  
(C.R. 12 July 1900 p.5. c.2)

### *Charged with Burglary*

Charles Tobias and Ed. Barber Arrested and Released on Bail.

Last week **Sheriff Dunn** arrested **Chas. Tobias** and **Ed. Barber**, peddlers, on a charge of burglarizing the home of Wm. Warren, one half mile north of Shepardsville, in the day time. They were taken before **Justice N. O. Smith** and released on \$300 bail. Examination, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

A neighbor boy is said to have seen them and set his dog on one whom he said was in the house. The dog tasted of his pants, and the boy called him off.

From Shiawassee Reporter:

**Sheriff Dunn**, of St. Johns, accompanied by one of his deputies on Saturday arrested **Charles Tobias** and "**One Eyed Bob**," two residents of this city for larceny. The men were taken to St. Johns Saturday evening, and those who were at the depot witnessed an affected sight. **Tobias'** two little girls clung to him and cried bitterly as he accompanied officers to the train, calling to him as he gently disengaged their hands "come back, papa, come back!" Both men have lived in Owosso for some time. Their records have not been bad.

(C.R. 12 July 1900 p.1. c.26)

- At the next M.E. Church social, which will be held at the farm residence of Spencer W. Gibbs, Esq., next Tuesday evening, the "**red ribbon boys**" are especially invited. Warm sugar will be served.

- The Gratiot Journal says there is no doubt of the fact that some people make a great mistake about heaven. -- -- They think it begins up yonder, but it really begins down here. If you can be happy in the basement story, you are fitted to enjoy the happiness of the upper stories; but if you whine and moan here, heaven itself can't change your mood. The suggestion is a good one for whining, ill-tempered people to think about. (*The Independent*)

### **Packed Streets**

#### **Prove St. Johns**

#### **Big Trade Center**

Saturday is always a big trading day for St. Johns and February 14<sup>th</sup> was no exception. By actual count there were 193 automobiles parked on the business streets of the city between 3:30 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon besides an estimated number of 30 or 40 in motion. The count was made by **Otis Fuller**, former editor of the *Clinton Republican*, who still retains his interest in St. Johns as a fine trading center and can remember well the days before the automobile when these same streets were lined with horse-drawn rigs on Saturday afternoon.

It is safe to assume that 450 of the machines in town Saturday came from the country round about. Estimating that each car brought an average of four people to St. Johns, then there were approximately 1,800 rural customers in town between 3:30 and 4 o'clock or about 36 for each of the 50-odd retail stores. In addition to this number there were several hundred city buyers on the streets, during this particular half-hour.

While Saturday is usually the biggest trading day of the week there are five others during which the city thoroughfares are well filled with buyers. (*CR 29 Feb 1925*)

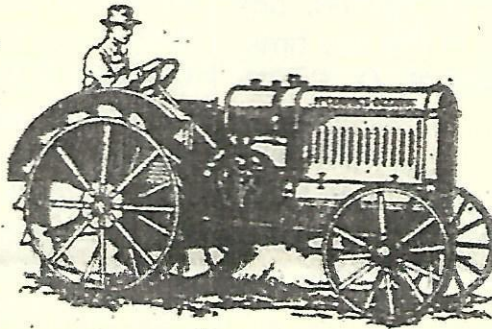
## St. Johns Man in First Truck and Tractor Course

**Glenn A. Barnhart** of St. Johns was one of the 19 men to finish the first truck and tractor course which finished recently at the Michigan Agricultural College. This course was one of the numerous branches of study offered in practical agriculture during the winter at the state college.

Men enrolled in the M.A.C. Short Course availed themselves of all the privileges of regular college student both athletically and socially. Basketball, wrestling, boxing, weekly literary programs and other forms of amusement's gave the short course members an intimate contact with the college. (CCR 23 Apr 1925)

# TRACTOR SCHOOL!

Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 10, there will be a factory representative at our store who will give free instructions to anyone interested in tractors of any make.



He will point out to you the common and the uncommon causes of trouble with all tractors and will show you the easiest and best methods of overcoming them.

## Monday and Tuesday, February 9 & 10

—Don't forget this date. It makes no difference what kind of tractor you own or are interested in, you are bound to get some knowledge from this man that will be valuable to you. He will also give information in regard to other internal combustion engines.

Remember—you are all urgently invited to attend this school.

# Fox Bros.

Fowler, Mich.

(CR 5 Feb 1925)



# "Downtown Businesses"

## St. Johns Street Directory - 1925-26

### *Clinton Avenue North*

From East & West State Street North to Railroad Street (North City Limits) The Dividing Street Between All East and West Streets.	East & West Walker Street Intersects	East & West Higham Street Intersects
1 Will Judd	25 Dart H. Parr	49 Farmers State Saving Bank
1 A. D. Miller	25 1/2 Edward W. Fehling	49 The Steel Hotel
1 1/2 Harry Bradley	25 1/2 Clinton Telephone Co.	49 Albert C. Martin
1 1/2 Wm. W. Ferguson	25 1/2 St. Johns Silver Black Fox Co.	50 Spaulding & Company
2 Michigan Electric Ry	26 St. Johns National Bank	50 1/2 Mrs. Marian E. Dodge
2 The Gem Restaurant	27 State Bank of St. Johns	50 1/2 George H. Mann
2 1/2 Miss Emma Louise Keys	27 1/2 Charles E. Weller	50 1/2 Arthur C. Henthorn
2 1/2 Hiel C. Clark	27 1/2 Bert C. leVansler	51 Claude S. Roat
3 Carl J. Weller	28 Harry E. Mack	53 St. Johns 5 & 10 cent Store
3 1/2 Harry D. Squair	29 Robert G. Allison	54 Palace Markeet
4 Mary E. Kelly	30 Central Market	56 J. M. Warner
5 John Harley	31 F. E. Minnie Company	56 1/2 J. M. Warner
6 Roley E. Benson	32 Donald Schlienz & Co.	57 Steven D. Parr
7 Miss Susie C. Durkee	34 Orin A. Wilson	58 Donovan's Accessory Store
8 City Bakery	35 1/2 Virgil Symmonds	59 Floyd W. Parish
9 1/2 Thomas E. Mann	36 Star Shoe Store	59 Peoples Restaurant
10 Hunt's Drug Store	37 Clark & Hulse	60 Max Salle
10 1/2 Arthur H. Kenyon	38 Donpier & Hayhoe	62 Cecil E. Patterson
11-13 George H. Chapman	38 Conrad S. Stephen	62 1/2 Ray Allen
11 1/2 Marcel Beauty Shop	39 Wilson Brothers	64 Rowes Restaurant
11 1/2 R. V. Gay	41 Osgood W. R. & Son	64 1/2 Thomas Rowe
12 L. W. Zavitz	42 Fred C. Burk	65 Robert H. Shaw
12 St. Johns Sugar Bowl	43 The Leader Store	65 1/2 Ray Allen
12 1/2 Nicholas Pappas	44 Strauser's Restaurant	65 1/2 Hiram Sage
14 1/2 Fred R. Jackson	44 1/2 George B. Loomis	66 Matthew's Dairy
15 G. Walter Emmons	44 1/2 Joseph E. Strauser	67 Electric Shoe Shop
15 1/2 Guy H. Frace	45 Bert W. Glaspie	67 Woodbury's Flower Shop
15 1/2 Henry Kosht	46 St. Johns Fruit Co.	68 B. Z. B. Restaurant
17 J. A. Byerly	46 1/2 James DeRose	68 1/2 Manning R. Baum
17 1/2 Hayes L. Burch	47 Almeraon G. Jones	68 1/2 Carl A. Baker
18 E. I. Hull and Son	48 Bruno Mazzolini	69 1/2 Mrs. Mattie Penix
20 Ebert's Mortuary		71 Charles C. Warner
21 Millman Pharmacy		72 O. P. DeWitt & Sons
21 1/2 Edward F. Boron		73 Mike H. Wekenman
23 Edward N. Butterfield		
23 1/2 Jesse E. Bancroft		
23 1/2 Burch Studio		
23 1/2 Clinton Co Farm Bureau		
24 Fowler and Ball		
	East & West Railroad St. Intersects	
	410 John C. Hicks	
	411 George F. Dimond	

# Not much has changed in 100 Years!!!

## SKATING ON CLINTON AVENUE PROHIBITED

There has been several complaints in regard to skating on Clinton Avenue, horses have been frightened and in some instances they have broken away. The Marshall has been trying to stop it the past week, and in some cases the parents have become highly indignant, and informed him that there is nothing in the ordinance, prohibiting skating on Clinton Avenue. We all like to see the children enjoy themselves and believe that skating in the open air is perhaps as good exercise as they could possible get, but taking into consideration the possible loss of lives and destruction of property, we have decided that it is best to prohibit it on Clinton Avenue, in the three business blocks of the city. Trusting that we may all see this in the proper light and that the parents will use their influence in the matter, I am.

Yours truly, **FRED W. GOODES**, Mayor

(CR 22 Apr 1909 pg.1)

## St. Johns, MI Code or Ordinances Chapter 72: Skateboards, Roller Blades, Roller Skates and the Like.

### 72.01 Purpose.

The City Commission has determined the use of coaster-wheeled devices, as defined herein, on certain designated streets and sidewalks within the city creates a hazard for pedestrian traffic, motor vehicle traffic and to the individuals themselves who are riding or using the coaster-wheeled devices. In order to avoid this hazardous condition, to eliminate the potential for accidents and for the general protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city, the City Commission has deemed it necessary to enact this chapter. (passed 7/12/1993)

## 73.02 Coaster-Wheeled Devices Prohibited.

The use of the coaster-wheeled devices defined herein is prohibited in the city on the following designated streets, sidewalks and parking areas:

- A. Clinton Avenue between State Street (M-21) and Railroad Street and adjacent sidewalks and parking areas thereto;
- B. State Street (M-21), Walker, Higham and Railroad Streets between Spring and Brush Streets and adjacent sidewalks and parking areas thereto;
- C. Maple Street and Linden Street between Cass Street and State Street (M-21) and adjacent sidewalks and parking areas thereto;
- D. All municipally owned parking facilities and exterior sidewalks, stairs and ramps within the city owned by, or located upon property owned by, the city and/or the county; and
- E. The Clinton County Veterans' Memorial located on Clinton Ave.

(Ord 415, passed 7/12/1993; Am. Ord. 488, passed 8/14/200; Am. Ord. 558 passed 9/25/2006. See 72.99)

## 72.99 Penalty

- A. Any person using a coaster-wheeled device as defined in 72.03, is guilty of civil infraction. The fine schedule of any such violation is:

First offense:	\$10
Second offense:	\$25
Third offense:	\$50

★ ★ ★  
**ERASTUS CALL**  
**(Nicknamed RAT)**

Hence early settlement corner Henderson-  
 New Lothrop Roads fondly called Ratville.  
 \* Erastus Call, Sr. enlisted Company F  
 Engineers & Mechanics Aug. 23, 1864 for  
 1 year age 40 discharged June 6, 1865.  
 \* Erastus Call, Jr. same as father above  
 age 20.  
 \* Alfred Call-the same as his brother &  
 father above age 18.

Sign in Elsie, Mi. Buried in Shiawassee County

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 donation 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: [pgsmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:pgsmuseum@hotmail.com); or PGS Museum, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES 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  
 researchers: (please circle Yes or No on each):

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

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.**

### Three Monkeys Author Unknown

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree  
Discussing things as they seemed to be  
Said one to the other, "Now listen, you two,  
There's a certain rumor that can't be true:  
That man descended from our noble race.  
The very idea-----why that's a disgrace!  
No monkey ever deserted his wife,  
Starved her babies or ruined their life.  
You'll never see a mother monk  
Leaver her babies with others to bunk,  
Or pass them on from one to the other,  
'Til they scarcely know which one's their mother.  
Another thing you'll never see  
Is a monk build a fence around a coconut tree  
And let all the coconuts go to waste  
Refusing all other monks a taste!

Another thing a monk won't do  
Is go out at night and get on a stew,  
Or use a gun, a club a knife  
To take some other monkey's life.  
Yes-----man descended, the ornery cuss, But  
Brothers-----he didn't descend from us!"

