



CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS



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Walter L. Mundell, Civil War Hero

By Wayne Summers

[Second in a series of Clinton County Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.]

Walter Lewis Mundell was born in Marshall, Virginia (now West Virginia), on August 1, 1838, to **Josephus and Elizabeth (Lewis) Mundell**. He came to Michigan with his parents in 1852, and helped them clear their 80-acre farm in section 14 of Dallas Township (south side of M-21 between Wright and Tallman Roads just west of the town limits). Later, after the death of his father in 1854, he helped his mother care for both the farm and his younger siblings.

Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, Walter had begun working for the railroad and may have moved to Grand Rapids where on May 13, 1861, he joined Company D of the 3rd Michigan Infantry. At the time of his enlistment, he was described as being age 22, and standing 5’7” with blue eyes and light hair and complexion.

On June 1, 1861, his company traveled to Georgetown Heights and from there to Bull Run where he fought in the First Battle of Bull Run (also known as the First Battle of Manassas). He wrote of this battle in 1883. “The troops were new and it was the first lesson at the point of the bayonet and cannon’s mouth.” His company was first ordered to reinforce the left flank, but then changed “to march to Centreville to stop the retreat of the disorganized and fleeing columns of the right wing of the army” which proved unsuccessful. *[Clinton Independent April 5, 1883, page 1]*

After the disaster at Bull Run, he spent the winter just south of Alexandria at a place they called Camp Michigan. In March his company marched several days through mud to Yorktown. After several skirmishes his company crossed the Chickahominy River to support General Couch’s division.

On June 1, 1862, Walter and three others were sent out one evening after the day’s battle at Fair Oaks, Virginia, to search for and retrieve any wounded. On returning with two wounded men in the pitch dark they mistakenly wandered into the Confederate Camp and asked where the hospital tent had been moved to. The Confederate soldiers answered, “We don’t know anything about your hospital tent, but we will show you where Richmond is.” *[Clinton Independent April 7, 1883, page 1]*

As a prisoner of war, Walter was first taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, and then on to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he was kept for about two months. Around the middle of August, Walter was moved to Belle Isle Prison near Richmond.

“We remained on the island about four weeks, during the time we only got an average, about four meals a week, which consisted of five ounces of bread and bean soup, which we christened ‘sacred water’.” [*Clinton Independent* May 10, 1883, page 1]

In mid-September Walter was paroled to Annapolis, Maryland, and a few days later moved to Alexandria, Virginia. About three weeks later he was exchanged and sent back to his regiment on November 30, 1862, just in time to participate in the Battle of Fredericksburg.

After the Battle of Fredericksburg, Mundell’s published recounting of his time in the Civil War ends. However, his company went on to fight in the Battle of Gettysburg, and it is assumed he was also there in July of 1863.

On December 23, 1863, Walter reenlisted at Brandy Station, Virginia.

While on duty during the charge of Liberty Hill near Spotsylvania, Virginia, Walter was shot in the right chest on the morning of May 12, 1864. After being treated in hospitals in Washington, D. C. and Baltimore, Maryland, he was furloughed home briefly to recover.

Upon rejoining the regiment, he was transferred as a Corporal to Company E of the 5th Michigan Infantry. On July 30, 1864, he was wounded a second time when he took a shell to his ankle.

Walter was once again sent back home to Michigan, where he married **Isabell F. Wheeler**, on September 5, 1864, in Bingham Township. By January 1, 1865, he had returned to duty.

Isabell was clearly not happy with this as she wrote to Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War, “Tho you are a stranger to me, yet I am about to ask a favor. Sir my husband has been in service nearly four years and is disabled and is not fit for duty. Sir I am alone, my health is very poor. We are strangers, yet I cherish a hope that you’re a gentleman and a friend to the poor. I most humbly pray sir if it would be agreeable to release my husband. He is now at Alexandria hospital. He was wounded in the breast, his ankle broken and is bad off a-bleeding.” Isabell’s request went unfulfilled. [from anoldthirdinfantry.org article by Steve Soper]

In the Battle of Sayler’s Creek on April 6, 1865, Walter and a group of fellow soldiers captured an enemy flag at great risk to their own lives. Since flags were a major means of communication, capturing an enemy’s flag was a great honor. For this Walter was given a 30-day furlough to return home, and he was also awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

After the war ended, Walter mustered out of service on July 5, 1865.

Upon returning from the war, Walter worked for the railroad for a while along with other manual labor jobs while living primarily in Fowler with his wife, son, and four daughters. (An additional son died in infancy.)

At one point, Walter lost the sight in one eye from a work accident.

During his later years he wrote five articles for the *Clinton Independent* on his early war experiences along with airing complaints about the low \$6 monthly pension he was receiving. He put his grievance this way. “Because you left your wife and children, and exposed your life to rebel bullets; because you spent four long and weary years, on the march or amid scenes of battle, and in southern prison pens, and all this that we might preserve for you our common country, and that her institutions of ‘liberty and the pursuit of happiness’ might go down to posterity, with not a single star blotted from her bright escutcheon. And now your family might starve for all that. Would these same boasting patriots, raise you up and pour healing balm into your wounds, and say ‘I do all this because he was a soldier—fought and bled that I might have a country and a home.’ No, but ‘we will deal you out a small pittance for your suffering, in the form of a six-dollar pension,’ while many, and in fact all dead beats are securing enormous pensions for nothing, men who were never in a battle during the war.” [*Clinton Independent* May 10, 1883, page 1]

Barely eking out a living, he is said to have walked 30 miles in 1884 to attend a reunion of the 3rd Michigan Infantry. At the completion, his comrades paid for his return railroad trip.

Walter died on April 20, 1900, at his home in Fowler, Michigan. After funeral services at the Fowler M. E. Church, he was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery. His wife Isabell died July 2, 1930.



Walter L. Mundall

CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS' RECRUITMENT 1863-64

We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream and from New England's shore.
We leave our plows and workshops, our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance, with but a silent tear.
We dare not look behind us but steadfastly before.
We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more!
James Sloan Gibbons, ca 1862

President Lincoln, during the Civil War in 1863, instructed the governors of all states to fill a certain quota before Jan. 5, 1864. Michigan's quota was 11,298 men and **Governor Blair** assigned Clinton County its share with a bounty of \$502 as an incentive. Some townships voted to add to this bonus. If the quota was not filled by the deadline, a draft would be enacted. *The Clinton Republican* printed brief accounts of the recruiting activities from Nov. 1863 through May 1864. It is largely from those news items that the following story was developed.

Col. Dorus M. Fox was put in command of the 27th Michigan Infantry Regiment when it was formed in 1863 and it was for this regiment the Clinton Co. recruits were intended. Ovid and St. Johns were the mustering locations, probably because they were located on a railroad. A building, earlier used for the manufacture of barrel staves and near the corner of Lansing and Railroad Streets in St. Johns, was reconfigured as barracks to house the men from Clinton Co. and the surrounding area who would be congregating throughout the winter.

To fill the quota for Ovid Twp., a company of sharpshooters was organized under the leadership of **Capt. Abner Brownell Wood, Jr.** Housing for his company of Mounted Rifles was prepared in Ovid and **Porter K. Perrin** recruited at least 55 men for the unit. In March the entire DeWitt Cornet Band, about eight men under the leadership of **Frank Webb**, enlisted to serve as a brigade band. The Sharpshooters, by now numbering around 125, moved to the St. Johns barracks about Apr 8, 1864, but soon the number of recruits had increased to 450. Then 100 men were sent back to Ovid for housing. It was explained that a shortage of lumber prevented the enlargement of the building in St. Johns. No mention was found that the recruits were being drilled or instructed.

By April 1864, the St. Johns barracks were described as being dirty and unhealthy, the blame being laid on the soldiers themselves and because the money subscribed for the erection of barracks had not all been paid. The building and grounds were not in accordance with Col. Fox's orders and a suitable building for a hospital had not been provided. Col. Fox demanded a hospital facility and it seems that a storefront on Clinton Ave. was taken over for that purpose.

Local women had organized a branch of the Soldier's Aid Society months earlier. It was partly supported by the U.S. Sanitary Commission. The women furnished food, blankets, and nursing for the recruits as best they could by using government funds and donations. The men in the hospital suffered from measles, mumps, and spotted fever among other afflictions. It appears that no military doctor was named to care for these patients and five of them died there in April. The hospital conditions were said to be deplorable in May 1864. Two female nurses and one male attendant were hired to tend to the eight ill men who were left behind when the rest of the troops boarded a train to head east. Some of the deceased were buried in the potter's field in what is now called Mt. Rest Cemetery in St. Johns and their remains were reinterred near the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument in 1904.

The village ladies treated the men to a generous feast at Firemen's Hall on their last weekend in town about May 6, 1864. However, before the recruits left, they burned the parts of the barracks they could tear out—windows, doors, etc., apparently during a night of revelry. Three men ran off at the last minute, two of whom were rounded up by **George W. Estes**, Village Marshall, and returned to

the military officials. The next day a large group of family and friends gathered at the depot to see the troops off.

During the trip east, four more sick men were left at Baltimore, including **R. Craven** of Duplain. By May 10th they were in Washington, DC, where a celebration of a recent victory by **Gen. Grant** was in full swing. Webb's cornet band performed in front of the White House and was thanked by President Lincoln. Col. Fox's 27th Reg. soon headed to the front to join the 9th Corp under **General Burnside**.

Some of those mentioned in connection with the 1863-64 recruitment were:

- **Joseph Berry** of Duplain who was made a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Reg. Sharpshooters.
- **George W. Estes** (18 Feb 1820-13 Jun 1906) wore many hats during his lifetime in St. Johns. He was the first postmaster and the longtime leader of the fire department. He also advertised himself as a veterinarian, surgeon, and farrier.
- **Capt. Elijah N. Fitch** of Ovid survived the war and later joined the S. Dak. GAR.
- **Col. Dorus M. Fox** was born 29 Nov 1817 in Jefferson Co., NY. He was wounded in battle at Petersburg, VA; resigned his commission Oct 3, 1864; died in Polk Co, IA. In his retirement he published religious and political books in Des Moines, IA. Two of his sons died in the Civil War.
- **William Lawton Hicks**, from St. Johns, son of William Lawton Hicks and Susan Nash, died of wounds 29 Jun 1864 in a Washington hospital.
- **Lieut. John Q. Patterson**, born in NY in 1826, was working as a drover when he was recruited. He received a ceremonial sword and sash at an event in Ovid before leaving for the front. In 1900 he was a lawyer in Kent Co., MI.
- **Maj. Porter K. Perrin** was co-editor of *The Clinton Republican* when he enlisted. He received a ceremonial sword and sash at a ceremony in Ovid before leaving for the front. He was discharged 23 Nov 1864 on account of being disabled. He is prominent in Clinton Co. history as a lawyer, politician, and president of the State Bank.
- **William Francis "Frank" Webb** (1840 -16 Jan 1875) was the son of William and Esther (Utley) Webb. He became a physician and died in Alma, MI, where he had a practice.
- **James H. Wellings** of DeWitt was made a 1st Lieut. in the 2nd Reg Sharpshooters.
- **Capt. Abner Brownell Wood, Jr.** (30 Jan 1828-3 Aug 1906) was born in NY. At the time of his enlistment, he was a merchant in Ovid. He is buried in Muskegon, MI.

Contributed by Myrna VanEpps



RESEARCH TIBITS

Contributed by Lynne Gregory

Did your ancestor ever serve in the military?

American military conflict	War years	Possible birth years
Revolutionary War	1775-1783	1726-1761
War of 1812	1812-1815	1762-1799
Great Toledo War	1835-1836	
Mexican War	1846-1848	1796-1831
Civil War	1861-1865	1811-1848
Spanish American War	1898	1848-1881
Philippine Insurrection	1899-1902	1849-1885
World War I	1917-1918	1872-1900
World War II	1941-1945	1877-1925
Korean War	1950-1953	1900-1936
Vietnam War	1964-1975	1914-1955

- In early wars ages were seldom checked. Some very young boys went in as "drummer boys."
- In some early conflicts, if a man could not or chose not to serve, they could send someone in their stead who was willing
- Also check for "militia" records, an early form of the National Guard, in an area where they lived.

Confused by an old newspaper or even church records as to exactly what date records/events actually happen? Marriage took place on the "14th inst" or the "20th ult" what does that mean? "Inst" is Latin for "this month" or "the present month". "Ult" means "last month". Rare but sometime seen "prox" means "next month" or "in the following month".

Old British records often don't include years as such, but will say 14 of June in the 3rd year of the reign of King William the 3rd. Thus you have to determine the years of that kings reign.

Some 19th century Prussian parish records give location, date, time of day and description of event.

Biographies of the Non-agrarian Skilled Workers of Clinton County's Sixteen Townships from the 1850 Census

Part 2: DeWitt Township

By Alice J. & Peter G. Murphy

Biographies of the Non-agrarian Skilled Workers of Clinton County's Sixteen Townships who were listed in the 1850 Census, Part 2: DeWitt Township

DeWitt was the Clinton County seat and the largest village in the county in 1850 accounting for so many professionals, businessmen and skilled laborers living there. The large number of shoemakers and cabinet makers may suggest small factories for these businesses?

One hundred fifty-one heads of household (4 women, 147 men) were listed including 89 farmers, 12 shoemakers, 7 merchants, 7 lawyers, 7 cabinet makers, 6 carpenters, 4 physicians, 3 blacksmiths, 2 clergymen, 2 distillers, 2 printers, 2 hotel keepers and one each for: wagon maker, surveyor, miller, harness maker, butcher, painter, baker and gunsmith. Ninety-three were born in NY, 15 VT, 7 NJ, 6 CT, 4 MI, 3 RI, 3 OH, 2 MA, 1 PA, 4 Lower Canada, 4 Upper Canada, 4 Ireland, 3 England, 1 Nova Scotia and 1 Germany.

Shoemaker: Mortimer Allport was born about 1833 in New York and moved to MI with his parents just after his birth. In 1850 he lived in the hotel of his father Nelson J Allport in DeWitt and was a shoemaker.

- Shoemaker: **Andrew Bennet** was born in about 1815 in New York and married Caroline there. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife and 2 sons.
- Shoemaker: **George Fedewa** was born about 1827 in Germany. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt and lived in the hotel owned by **Nelson J Allport**.
- Shoemaker: **Tobias Forman** was born May 27, 1827 in Seneca Co, NY. He married **Mary Jane Stout** on Nov 25, 1849 in DeWitt. She died in 1870 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge, MI. He married **Sarah Wayne** in 1879 in Grand Ledge. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife. In 1860 he was a boot and shoe maker in DeWitt with his wife and 3 children. From 1870 to 1910 he lived in Grand Ledge with his second wife and daughter and owned a boot and shoe store. He died May 3, 1913 and was buried at Oakwood Cemetery beside his first wife. Sarah died July 3, 1915 and was also buried at Oakwood Cemetery.
- Shoemaker: **John William Gardner** was born Mar 1, 1818 in NY. He married **Phebe Ann Phillips**, probably in NY. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife and son; he ran a dry goods store in 1856. In 1860 and 1870 he was a merchant and farmer in DeWitt with his wife and 2 children and a founding member of the Congregational Church. He died on Aug 13, 1877 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. Phebe died Sept 20, 1915 and was buried beside him.
- Shoemaker: **David C Gould** was born in about 1816 in NY and married **Diana Struter** in MI. In 1850 he was a shoemaker and lived in the hotel of **Nelson J Allport**. In 1860 he lived in Lebanon Township on a farm with his wife and 3 children. In 1870 he lived in Gratiot Co, MI on a farm with his wife and 3 children. He died Feb 11, 1871 and was buried at Payne Cemetery, Fulton Township. Diana died Dec 4, 1873 and was buried beside him.
- Shoemaker: **Matthew Huston** was born about 1802 in Ireland and married **Arabella Pierce** in VT. He lived in Chittenden, VT in 1830. He moved to MI in about 1845 and in 1850 was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife and 8 children. He died in 1856 and was buried at Mount Rest Cemetery, St. Johns. Arabella died in 1892 and was buried beside him.
- Shoemaker: Walter Love was born about 1825 in NY. He married **Louisa Conklin** on Jan 27, 1848 in Bath Township. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt and lived in the hotel of Nelson J Allport. In 1857 he bought 40 acres in Bath Township and in 1860 lived there with his wife and 4 children. He served in the Civil War from Aug 15, 1862 until his death: Co. C, MI 17th Infantry. He died Aug 24, 1863 in Detroit and was buried at Spring Grove National Cemetery in Cincinnati, OH.

- Shoemaker: **William Montgomery** was born Dec 21, 1812 in County Cork, Ireland. He married **Harriet Richmond** in Iowa. He may have arrived in Boston, MA on June 12, 1842. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt living in the hotel of **Nelson J Allport**. In 1852 he lived in Jefferson Co, IA. He died Mar 21, 1857 and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Fairfield, IA. Harriet died Jan 26, 1886 and was buried beside him.
- Shoemaker: **Palmer Roberts** was born about 1833 in MI. He married **Helen Ann Cain** June 1, 1854 in Clinton Co, MI. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt and lived in the hotel of Nelson J Allport. In 1860 he was a boot and shoe maker in DeWitt with his wife and daughter. He lived in DeWitt during the Civil War Draft.
- Shoemaker: **Zachias Vanvolkenburgh/Vanvalkenburg** was born about 1817 in NY and married **Betsy** there. In 1840 he lived in Holland, NY. In 1850 he was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife, daughter and mother. In 1860 he lived on a farm in Victor Township with his wife and 4 children. He served as a private in the Civil War from Dec 6, 1861 to Apr 16, 1862: Co. D, MI 14th Infantry.
- Shoemaker: **George O Wells** was born Dec 6, 1817 in Rockingham, VT. He married **Eliza Hewett** on Dec 16, 1841 in DeWitt. He was Township Clerk in 1846 and in 1850 was a shoemaker in DeWitt with his wife and 3 children. He died Mar 6, 1855 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. In 1870 **Eliza Hewett (David) Goss** lived in Westphalia and in 1900 lived with her brother and grandson in Essex Township. She died July 27, 1906 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery.
- Merchant: **Joseph Cook** was born about 1824 in VT. In 1850 he was a merchant living with the **Adam W Partridge** family (Adam was a merchant).
- Merchant: **James Ester** was born about 1825 in NY. He married **Mary Murray** in MI. In 1850 he was a merchant in DeWitt and lived in the hotel of **Nelson J Allport**; he was Postmaster in 1856. In 1860 he lived in Versailles, PA with his wife and son where he was a servant. In 1861 he may have been a prisoner in the Clinton Prison in Clinton, NY serving almost 3 years for forgery. In 1884 he may have lived in Oakland Co, MI with **Harriet A Ester**.
- Merchant: **Walter Hubbell** was born about 1820 in Ontario Co, NY and married **Martha** there. From 1837 to 1839 he bought more than 10 properties in MI in different counties (land speculator?). In 1839 he was the Postmaster in Wacousta, MI and Justice of the Peace in DeWitt Township in 1849. In 1850 he was a merchant in DeWitt with his wife and 3 children. He died Oct 12, 1851 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. In 1860 **Martha Hubbell Wooldridge** was living in Rochester, MN.
- Merchant: **George W Lee** was born about 1816 in NY where he married **Adelia**. In 1850 he lived in DeWitt where he was a merchant and lived with his distiller brothers and sisters; he sold groceries and provisions in 1856. In 1860 he was a merchant in DeWitt with his wife. He served as a private in the Civil War from Sept 9, 1861 to Feb 7, 1862 with Co. D, MI 1st Infantry. He died Nov 14, 1872 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery.
- Merchant: **Adam W Partridge** was born about 1811 in Lower Canada and married **Elizabeth** of NY. In 1850 he was a merchant in DeWitt with his wife and 2 children; he was sheriff in 1856. He lived in Clinton Co in 1863 and in 1879 was DeWitt Township Justice of the Peace.
- Merchant: **James Sturgis** was born about 1823 in Upper Canada and was married to **Mary Elizabeth Wellings** in DeWitt. In 1850 he was a merchant in DeWitt and lived in the hotel of Nelson J Allport. In 1860 he was a merchant in Dewitt with his wife and 4 children. In 1880 he owned 40 acres of property in Duplain Township and Mary lived in Ithaca, MI with their 9 children. He died in 1884 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. In 1915 and 1920 Mary lived in Oklahoma City with her 2 daughters. She was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery.
- Merchant: **William R Sturgis** (brother of James) was born June 23, 1820 in Upper Canada. He married **Hannah Ellen King** on July 8, 1852 in DeWitt. In 1850 he was a merchant in DeWitt and lived in the hotel of **Nelson J Allport**. In 1860 he lived in Dowagiac, MI where he was a dry goods merchant with his wife and 2 daughters. Hannah died Mar 7, 1868 and was buried at Riverside Cemetery, Dowagiac. William died Apr 9, 1870 in Dowagiac and was buried beside her.
- Lawyer: **Joab Baker** was born about 1816 in Cortland Co, New York. He married **Sylvia Olivia** on Aug 1, 1847 in DeWitt but they divorced before 1870. He married **Louisa M Webster Brown** on June 19, 1872 in Essex, MI. In about 1845 he moved to Portland, MI from PA and moved to DeWitt in 1847 to practice

law. In 1850 he was a lawyer in DeWitt with his wife and daughter. He was DeWitt Township Justice of the Peace in 1852 and 1854. He moved to St Johns in 1857 (when the county seat moved) where he lived with his wife and 3 children. In 1862 he moved to Grand Haven, MI and in 1870 lived in Muskegon, MI where he lived with the **Sudlow** family. In 1880 he lived in Muskegon with his second wife and step son and was a lawyer. He died Sept 24, 1883 in Muskegon. Louisa lived in Muskegon in 1889; she died Jan 11, 1901 in IL.

- Lawyer: **John M DeGarmo** was born July 12, 1826 in Rensselaer Co, NY. He married **Mary E Hendry** on Dec 26, 1864 in Rockingham, VT. In 1850 he lived in DeWitt with the **Calvin Coon** family on a farm and practiced law. In 1880 he lived in Castleton, VT and was Superintendent of the Poor Farm. From 1900 to 1920 he lived in Brandon, VT. He died on Mar 17, 1922 and was buried at Pine Hill Cemetery, Brandon beside Mary who had died there on Oct 11, 1888.
- Lawyer: **Joseph S Hollister** was born Sept 6, 1789 in Glastonbury Co, CT and married **Amanda Adams** in CT or NY. He moved to Victor Township in about 1843 and to DeWitt soon after. In 1850 he was a lawyer in DeWitt with his wife and 2 adult children with 12 acres of property and was a founding member of the Congregational Church. He moved to Dowagiac, MI where he was a Justice of the Peace and lawyer. He died there Feb 10, 1861 and was buried at Riverside Cemetery. Amanda lived in Dowagiac in 1870 and in Monroe, IN in 1880 where she lived with her son and family.
- Lawyer: **Noel Byron Hollister**, son of Joseph, was born Aug 18, 1828 in Danby, NY. He married **Alice Marvin** on Apr 28, 1852 in Clinton Co, MI. In 1850 he was a lawyer in DeWitt with his parents and sister. He was Postmaster in Dowagiac, MI in 1853. In 1870 he was a druggist in Dowagiac with his wife, 3 children and mother. In 1880 he lived in Monroe, IN on a farm with his wife, mother and daughter. In 1900 he and his wife lived in Chicago with their daughter and family. He died in Chicago on Mar 2, 1902. In 1920 Alice lived in Portland, OR.
- Lawyer: **Christopher William Leffingwell** was born Sept 9, 1808 in Albany, NY. He married **Mary Ann Hileman** in 1834 in PA. He lived in PA from at least 1838 to 1843 and Ohio from 1843 to 1848. In 1850 he was a lawyer in DeWitt with 7 children (he eventually had 12). He moved to Grand Rapids in about 1856 where he was a lawyer in 1860. He served in the Civil War where he was Quartermaster General to his regiment serving in the Battles of Bull Run, Williamsburg, Seven Pines, Antietam and Fredericksburg. He entered as a Colonel and ended as a Brevet General. In 1870 he was a farmer, merchant, Justice of the Peace and lawyer in Grand Rapids where he helped organize the local military. Mary died Mar 15, 1872 and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Grand Rapids. Christopher lived with his daughter in Rock Island, IL for several months before he died on July 17, 1879 and was buried at Greenwood cemetery beside his wife.
- Lawyer: **Jesse Olmstead** was born about 1804 in NY. He married **Electa Ann Butler** (his second wife) on Mar 19, 1849 in DeWitt. In 1850 he was a lawyer in DeWitt with his wife and 3 children.
- Lawyer: **Randolph Strickland** was born Feb 4, 1823 in Dansville, NY and married **Mary E Gooch** in MI. He moved to Portland, MI from Livingston Co, NY in 1844 where he practiced law for two years before moving to DeWitt. In 1850 he was a lawyer and prosecuting attorney in DeWitt. He was Township Justice of the Peace in 1853. In 1860 he was a prosecuting attorney in DeWitt with his wife and 2 children. He was Township Supervisor in 1861 and State Senator in 1861-62. He moved to St. Johns in 1862 and was Provost Marshall of the 6th Congressional District in 1863-65 and US Representative to Congress in 1869-71. In 1870 and 1880 he was a lawyer in St. Johns with his wife and 4 daughters. He died on May 5, 1881 in Battle Creek, MI and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. Mary died in 1905 in Grand Rapids and was buried beside him.
- Cabinet maker: **Henry E Collins** was born about 1791 in VT. In 1850 he was a cabinetmaker, sold furniture and fixtures and lived with the **Calvin Coon** family on a farm. He died in 1850 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery.
- Cabinet maker: **David Groom** was born about 1818 in NY and married **Elizabeth** there. She died May 26, 1853 and was buried at Blood Cemetery, Clinton Co, MI. He married **Hannah M Lewis** after 1860. In 1850 he built cabinets in DeWitt with his wife and infant daughter. In 1870 he lived in Lansing, MI with his wife and was an engineer. He died between 1870 and 1880. In 1880 Hannah lived in Chemung Co, NY

where she had lived in 1850. She died July 16, 1910 and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira, NY (Hannah M Groom Lewis Groom Lindsey; 3 husbands).

- Cabinet maker: **William Hager** was born about 1823 in VT and married **Sarah** in VT or NY. He moved to MI in about 1850 where he was a cabinet maker in DeWitt with his wife and son. He bought 40 acres of land in Clinton Co in 1857 and in 1860 lived on a farm in Westphalia, MI.
- Cabinet maker: **J F McKeen** was born about 1824 in NY where he married **Mary** of NJ. In 1850 he built cabinets in DeWitt with his wife and infant son and lived with the **Martin Moore** family. He was the DeWitt Township Clerk from 1848 to 1853.
- Cabinet maker: **Wiley P Utley** was born in about 1821 in NY. He married **Adaline Heinman** on June 27, 1844 in DeWitt. His father **William** bought 234 acres of property in Sec 9, DeWitt Township in 1835 and moved his family there in about 1840; William played an active role in Township governance. In 1850 Wiley was a cabinet maker with his wife and daughter; he was a carpenter and joiner in 1856. In 1860 he lived in Kent Co on a 50 acre farm. In 1870 and 1880 he lived in Whitehall, MI with his wife and was a carriage and wagon maker. Adaline died Nov 23, 1895 in Whitehall and was buried at Oakhurst Cemetery. In 1903 Wiley lived in the Masonic Home in Grand Rapids. He died there on Apr 26, 1909 and was buried beside his wife at Oakhurst Cemetery.
- Cabinet maker: **Cyrus W Utley** was born about 1834 in MI. In 1850 he was a cabinet maker in DeWitt and lived with the **Riley Utley** family (a relative but not a brother). In 1889 he was a teamster in Grand Rapids, MI. In 1900 he owned 480 acres of property in Monroe Township, Newaygo Co, MI.
- Cabinet maker: **Riley Jerome Woodruff** was born Aug 5, 1828 in NY. He married **Sarah S Green** in MI. He married **Ida Julia Post** (39 years younger) on May 6, 1896 in Victor Township. In 1850 he was a cabinet maker in DeWitt and lived with the **JF McKeen** family. In 1860 he continued making cabinets with his wife and 3 children. He became a grocer in 1863 and in 1870 ran a retail grocery with his wife, 4 children and sister. In 1880 he was a boot and shoe dealer in St. Johns with his wife, 2 children and sister. Sarah died Feb 28, 1895 and was buried at Mount Rest Cemetery. In 1900 Riley lived in St. Johns with no job listed. In 1910 he lived at 610 Cass St and was a Justice of the Peace living with his wife and granddaughter. He died Apr 18, 1916 of heart disease and was buried at Mount Rest Cemetery. Ida died May 1, 1919 in Lansing, MI.
- Carpenter: **Lyman J Hewit** was born about 1815 in NY. He married **Harriet A Woodruff** on Feb 4, 1841 in DeWitt. In 1850 he was a carpenter in DeWitt with his wife and son. He probably died before 1860 as that year **Harriet AWH (Daniel) Moore** lived on a farm in DeWitt with her son.
- Carpenter: **William Moon** was born about 1827 in NY and married **Sarah** in MI. In 1847 he bought 80 acres in Sec 34 and 80 acres in Sec 27 of DeWitt Township. In 1850 he was a carpenter and joiner in DeWitt.
- Carpenter: **Bishop Morton** was born June 3, 1803 in Sudbury, VT and married **Eleanora Elderkin** or **Elderboom**. He lived in Oswego, NY from about 1830 to 1838 before moving to Franklin, MI. In 1850 he was a carpenter in DeWitt with his wife and 5 children. In 1860 he was a farmer in DeWitt with his wife and daughter. He died May 23, 1866 in DeWitt and was buried at Gunnisonville Cemetery. Eleanora died Apr 1, 1881 and was buried beside him.
- Carpenter: **Charles W Thomas** was born about 1831 in NY. He married **Emeline E Webber** on Mar 9, 1854 in Clinton Co, MI. In 1850 he was a carpenter in DeWitt with his parents (**Joseph and Lucy**) and 8 siblings. In 1860 Emeline was a servant in the **Rinaldo Webber** home in DeWitt. In 1870 and 1880 Charles was a carpenter in Hubbardston, MI with his wife and 2 children. In 1900 he was a carpenter in Lyons, MI with his wife. He died after 1900. Emeline died Sept 25, 1910 in Muir, MI.
- Carpenter: **Joseph Thomas** was born about 1806 in NY and married **Lucy A** of RI about 1830 in Clinton Co, NY. He moved to MI about 1843. In 1850 he was a carpenter in DeWitt with his wife and 9 children.
- Carpenter: **Addison Alpheous Woodruff** was born Jan 30, 1832 in NY. He married **Amanda Evaline Marshall** in MI. In 1850 he was a carpenter in DeWitt living with the **Lyman J Hewit** family. In 1860 he was a cabinet maker there with his wife and sons; in 1870 and 1875 he was a merchant. In 1880 Addison ran a dry goods and grocery store and Amanda ran a millinery shop. He was DeWitt Township Clerk in 1877-78 and 1880. In 1900 he was a "capitalist" in DeWitt with his wife. He died Aug 14, 1901 and was

buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. Amanda continued to live in DeWitt with her son and family until her death Dec 26, 1922 when she was buried beside her husband.

- Physician: **William Baldwin** was born about 1815 in CT and married **Bethany**, perhaps in NY. In 1850 he was a doctor in DeWitt with his wife.
- Physician: **Seth P Marvin** was born about 1814 in NY and married **Betsy Gooch** of Maine. He moved from Oakland Co, MI to Watertown Township in 1835 and to DeWitt in 1839. He was DeWitt Township School Inspector in 1842-44 and Clerk in 1842 and 1845. He was the Clinton County Clerk in 1839-40, Register of Deeds in 1856-57, DeWitt Township Justice of the Peace in 1857 and Judge of Probate in 1856-60. In 1860 he lived in DeWitt where Betsy died June 6 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. The couple had at least 5 children who died young and at least two who reached adulthood. Seth died in 1864 and was buried beside his wife.
- Physician: **Martin Moore** was born about 1794 in NJ and married **Joann** of NJ. He lived in Steuben Co, NY before moving to MI between 1838 and 1842. He was DeWitt Township Justice of the Peace in 1843. In 1850 he was a physician in DeWitt with his wife and daughter and lived with the **JF McKeen** family.
- Physician: **Hiram Stowell** was born in July, 1795 in VT and married **Olivia Bowen** in NY about 1828. In 1824 he was a student at Middlebury College and Academy of Medicine in Auburn, NY. He lived in Cayuga Co, NY until 1836 when he moved to Ann Arbor, MI to further his medical studies. In 1837 he moved to DeWitt and settled on Sec 2. He was DeWitt Township Assessor in 1838, 1839 and 1841 and School Inspector in 1838, 1841 and 1850. He was a Clinton County Judge of Probate and Treasurer. In 1850 he was a physician in DeWitt with his wife and 7 children. He died Aug 25, 1857 and was buried at DeWitt City Cemetery. Olivia died Aug 27, 1885 and was buried beside him.
- Blacksmith: **Arvin Groom** was born about 1814 in NY and married **Almira Beebe** of CT. He moved to MI by 1838 and in 1850 lived in DeWitt as a blacksmith with his wife and 6 children. In 1860 to 1880 he lived in Carryall, Ohio on a farm with his wife and son; he was noted as blind in 1860. He died June 27, 1892 in Pauling Co, OH. (continued in the September issue)



Correction:

In the last article of this series two farmers in Bath Township were noted as having been born in NC. This should have been UC, Upper Canada. The Ancestry transcriber made this error and did so for other residents of Clinton County in the 1850 census (also LC, Lower Canada, was mistakenly transcribed as SC).

From 1791 to 1841 Upper Canada was designated as land on either side of the St Lawrence River upstream from the Ottawa River confluence including land north of the Great Lakes. Lower Canada was land downstream from the Ottawa River confluence to the Atlantic Ocean. These two Provinces were combined in 1841 into the single Province of Canada.

St. Johns' Mount Rest Cemetery has perhaps the Clinton County record for having the grave of a man who lived in three centuries. **Stephen Fish**, b. 1796 died in 1900 at the age of 104. He is buried in OP2 #328
Contributed by Lynne Gregory

PGS Museum
at 106 Maple St, St. Johns will be **open** for the Mint Festival, Aug 14 and 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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. 1702. E-mail: ccgensoc@yahoo.com Web page: 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 Redeemer Church – St. Johns Campus 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. NOTICE: Meetings are currently held by ZOOM only. If you would like to be included in the next meeting, email wsummer4@gmail.com.

The **Clinton County Historical Museum** complex is located on the west side of the courthouse square in St. Johns. pgsmuseum@gmail.com. To join the Friends of the Museum and make a donation of \$25, contact them at: www.pgsmuseum.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: _____

Do we have permission to share your information with other researchers: (please circle Yes or No on each):
Name & Address: Yes No E-Mail: Yes No

New _____ Renewal _____

Membership for the Clinton County Historical Society is \$20 annually.

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____

Send me Clinton County Trails by e-mail _____ Yes _____ No

Annual Dues to join both the Clinton County Historical Society are \$20.00 per household. Membership is based on the calendar year and includes 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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

October 7, 2021

CCHS Annual Program

Jessica Trotter, Speaker

The ABCs of DNA

(More details to follow later.)



Jean Stock Photo - csp29171

Archives Re-Opening and Change of Hours

July 12 we will re-open!

(Masks are required due to close quarters)

NEW HOURS

We will **not** have Thursday hours.

We will be open:

Monday & Tuesday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



CLINTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 174
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879

