

Clinton County Trails

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1 1989 Looking For Your Roots? Come Visit Us.



A publication of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society

COUNTY PIONEERS MEET June, 1905

President Sessions read the following list of persons who came to their respective townships not later than 1840 and are still living in the same township: Bengal, Miner Frink, aged 85, came to that township in 1840; Mrs. Fayette Drake, age 74, came in 1838; Stephen Parks, came in 1835; DeWitt, J. H. Gunnison, age 68 came in 1837; Mr. and Mrs. George Cushman, age 80 and 74, came in 1837; George W. Scott came in 1834; Mrs. Jennie Scott came in 1835; Sylvester Scott came in 1838; Mrs. Julia Scott, age 84, came in 1838; Edmund Hewitt, age 75 came in 1839; Duplain, Joseph Lowe, age 78, came in 1835; Mrs. Mary Letts, age 74, came in 1840; Eagle, David Clark came in 1835; Horace and Josiah Monroe came in 1836; Mrs. Almira Dravenstatt came in 1837; Mrs. Jennette Jennison came in 1837; Artemus Briggs came in 1839; Joseph Hinman came in 1839; Greenbush, Richard Carter, age 80, Levina Jefferies, age 70, Ozi Sevy, age 80, Emmett Kirby, age 85; Lebonon, Mrs. Charlie Millard, age 90, came in 1837; Emerson Vance, age 65 born there in 1840; Olive, W. J. Merrihew, age 73, J. M. Merrihew, age 77, James Calder, age 74, George Ennest, age 73; Westphalia, August Martin, Nicholas Pohl, Samuel C. Hazen, William Rademacher, Anthony Arens, Joseph Hengesbach; Victor, Epon Parker.

The remaining townships in the county were not reported. Nearly all of the townships were organized in the years from 1836 to 1840, and many of the old residents took active part in the organizations and were among the first township officials. Isaac Hewitt of Maple Rapids is among those who have spent many years in one township and assisted in its development. Mr. Hewitt was born at DeWitt in 1839 and went to Essex in 1852. Mrs. C. S. Wolcott is another old resident of Essex, and Mrs. Franklin Baker, age 82, went to

Duplain in 1841. George W. Estes, age 85, came to Bingham in 1845 and has lived here since that time. Mr. Estes was the only one of those pioneers who was able to be present at the meeting Saturday.

BREVITIES THAT WILL INTEREST YOU June, 1905

Born to Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Jackson, Thursday, June 8, a daughter.

Mrs. James Exelby is visiting her daughter, Mrs. E. L. Parker, at Ovid.

Mrs. Thomas H. Mann accompanied Dr. Mann on his regular trip to Fowler, Friday.

Mrs. J. McGillicuddy and son, Oliver, of Shepardsville, were in St. Johns, Monday.

Attorney J. Earle Brown returned Friday from a business trip to Neenah, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Carl Weller went to Fowler, Tuesday, to assist in caring for her sister, Mrs. Gotlieb Waltz.

Mrs. A. H. Butcher, of Mt. Pleasant, spent Monday at the home of Rev. and Mrs. G. S. Northrup.

Miss Effie Weatherwax has returned from Boyne Falls, where she has been teaching during the past year.

Teachers examination is being held today in Harmonie Hall.

F. Tange of Yokohama, Japan, was in St. Johns on business yesterday.

Mrs. E. Ward of Owosso, visited her daughter, Mrs. A. D. Newman at Union Home over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hamilton and daughter, Marjorie, are visiting in Ada this week.

HISTORY OF GUNNISONVILLE

Continued

Here is another incident that my father used to tell about--perhaps many of you have heard him tell it. It seems that Dr. Moore of DeWitt had the first buggy (buckboard as it was called) and one day the doctor's son, Frank, took the buggy and came to Gunnisonville and asked Miss Josslyn, the teacher, to go for a ride. I don't know whether they were returning or just starting out anyway, "Bill" Moore astride a donkey, came up behind them and close enough so the donkey's head was over the back of the buggy. Soft dirt roads those days so Frank Moore and Miss Josslyn never heard the footsteps. All at once the donkey brayed "hee-haw" and it scared Miss Josslyn so, being a city girl, that she jumped right over the thills and ran for her boarding place and didn't stop until she got there.

"Bug Hill" and other nicknames. In the old days they called the hill north of the church "Bug Hill." A man by the name of Bugbee of Bugsby was killed there by a falling tree, hence the name. From the corners to the creek east of Leo Dunhams home was called the "Pig Lane" because "Bill" Moore let his hogs run in the road so much. From the creek on to Cushman's corners was called "Crow Ridge". From the pavement corner to the Sam Smith hill was called "Sauger Holler" and the half mile road to the south, to past the Gregory place was called "Badger Holler". These last three nicknames being self evident. Folks in those days made their own fun and had plenty of good times.

When the Civil War broke out, there were no railroads into Lansing. The old "Ramshorn" (so called in derision and because of the crookedness of the line) had been built from Owosso as far as Bath and there was where the soldiers had to entrain. When the first contingent left Lansing, they marched soldiers north to the Gunnisonville corners, then east to Bath. My father said the line reached from Cushman's place to where the Fred Angell house is now. The Shiawassee and Clinton County History says that around 3000 men went to war from the two counties. The following is a list of the men from Gunnisonville and vicinity who were in the war, with the branch of the service they were in as far as I am able to ascertain---

Jonathon Henderson, Levi Morgan, and George P. Severance in Co. D, 14th Michigan Infantry.
Jacob Croy, Co. E, 8th Michigan Infantry
Samuel A. Smith, Co. D, 15th Michigan Infantry
John Sibley, Co. G, 15th Michigan Infantry
Jacob Giesenhafer, Co. A, 16th Michigan Infantry
Joseph Bushrey, Co. F, 17th Michigan Infantry
Abram L. Casterline, Hospital Steward, 23rd Michigan Infantry
Ira F. Pearsall, Co. H, 24th Michigan Infantry
Robert Daniels, Co. D, 27th Michigan Infantry
Rufus W. Partridge and Albert Lott in Co. H, 27th Michigan Infantry
Leroy B. Stowell, Co. D, 2nd Michigan Cavalry
Jacob P Sleight, Corp. John Bolton, Jacob Smith, Daniel Vail, Wm. Vail, Isaac Smith and Phineas Freeman all in Co. B, 3rd Michigan Cavalry
Albert B. Gregory, Edwin Hewitt, Charles A. Sloan in Co. E, 3rd Michigan Cavalry
John W. Bradner, Co. B, 4th Michigan Cavalry
Jerome B. Hath, Co. I, 4th Michigan Cavalry
E. A. Gundeman, Co. G, 5th Michigan Cavalry
Allen Dryer and Samuel J. Southworth, in Co. G, 6th Michigan Cavalry
James Cortright in 6th Michigan Cav. and later in Co. F, 1st Mich. Eng.
Arthur H. West, Corp. Co. F, 3rd Ohio Cavalry

Milo R. Moore, Co.B, U.S. Sharpshooters
 Theodore Morton, Co. A, Eng. and Mech.
 Andrew S. West, in Carpentry Dept.
 Jonathon Melvin, enlisted Sept. 1, 1864, in Navy, served on
 Battleships Vermont, New Hampshire and Saratoga. Discharged June 8, 1865
 at N.Y.C. He was born in England.

And the following, I haven't their records.

A. David	M. D. Richardson
Peter Rodman	John Phiester
Wm. Derham	Wm. Sweeney
O. D. Phillips	Charles Smith
Jacob Schoettle	Samuel Smith, brothers of Mrs. Geo. Cushman
Felix Foreback	Neihart

The first religious services in the township were held at the log houses of the various pioneers in 1838, Washington Jackson of Wayne County was the earliest circuit preacher I can find mentioned in the histories, then Elders Cole and Bigelow are mentioned. My father often spoke of and Elder Coburn and the History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties says "he entered eight acres of land on Section 20 in 1838 and occupied it a year later. He was the earliest resident minister and conducted most of the religious services of that early day." A son of his died at the Masonic Home in Alma, just a short time before my father's death. In later years, services and Sunday School at Gunnisonville were held in the school house and here I would like to mention Mrs. Robert Livermore's deep interest and active part in the Sunday School during her residence in the community. So many I have talked with have spoken of her.

The Ladies' Aid was organized before the church was built. In May, 1885, several women met at the home of Mrs. Thomas Robbins and discussed the need of an Aid Society to help with the church services and the Sunday School, both being held in the school house at that time. And the next month, June, 1885, they met at the little house by the creek as it was called. It was located about half way between the creek and the corner and belonged to Phillip Craus and was used by the Sons of Temperence for their meetings. The following were present that day in June, 1885;

Mrs. Robert Livermore	Mrs Phillip Kraus
Mrs. Charles Wildt	Mrs. Andrew West
Mrs. John H. Clements	Mrs. Lottie Lott
Mrs. JamesGunnison	Miss Anna Stampfly

Officers. elected were: President, Mrs. Robert Livermore
 Vice President, Mrs. Andrew West
 Secretary, Mrs. Alfred Gunnison
 Treasurer, Mrs. James Gunnison

The society met every two weeks, working until they had a nice collection of articles, then they had a Fair at Mrs. Stephen Downer's and James Cortright was the auctioneer. The fair was a sucess and they have held one every year since. Perhaps a few items gleaned from an old book of the Treasurer of the Ladies Aid may be of interest; receipts from the Fair of 1891 were \$7.12. On 1896 received from the supper at the Fair \$14.32 (this was the first mention of a supper at the fair). July 1, 1897--names for quilt, \$7.35. Final payment of carpet for church, \$13.04, making the total cost of carpet, \$108.14.

Continued

EARLY MAPLE RAPIDS DAYS
DESCRIBED BY EARLY PIONEER HELEN M. PARR

(This charming account of the early life in Maple Rapids is printed with the permission of Mary Beth Upton, a great granddaughter of Mrs. Parr. Mrs. Parr read this account at a meeting of the Maple Rapids Grange in February of 1915, when she was eighty years old.)

Maple Rapids in 1835 was a trading post established by George Campeau of Detroit. No steps were taken for the founding of the village until 1852. When I first knew anything about Maple Rapids, there was only one house, built of logs and known as the Johnson House, on the banks of Maple River just west of town. There are some trees standing now that mark the spot. In that house, upstairs, was a small room where they kept what was called a store. They kept factory prints, tea, coffee, tobacco and whiskey. They done most of their trading with the Indians, buying furs and paying them in whiskey mostly. There was no road except the one on the west side which went straight to the Johnson House, on the banks of the beautiful Maple. Old memories make it seem that way to me. Indians just came to camp all along the river. They had dances. We could hear the drums from where we lived, now where Frank Warren lives. There used to be a small store on the place where Mrs. VanScoy now lives, about as big as a common-sized corn house.

Hiram Benedict lived there at that time. This little store stood just east of the old log house which stood near where the new house stands. Where Mrs. McPherson lives was our nearest post office, which was called the petit house. It was pretty near a wilderness when my folks first settled on their place where Frank Warren now lives (this is the Beach farm, across from the Darwin Bancroft farm). We lived in what was called a double log house with a shake roof with a porch across the whole length of the house. Two front doors with wooden latches and hinges. There was a big fireplace in the south end of the kitchen. The house stood right in front of the house that stands there now.

We youst to have the Fourth of July celebrations there because it was the biggest house there was anywhere around. The neighbors went in together and cooked for the dinner. I remember one Fourth of July they brought milk to our house about four weeks before the Fourth for my mother to make cheese for the dinner. I tell you they got some lovely dinners in them days, if it was a new country. I tell you I liked them old pioneer days.

We didn't have much fruit them days except wild fruit, which was plenty. Strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, huckleberries, gooseberries, wild plums, and cranberries. You could go and get berries anytime in the season and preserve and dry them for winter. They didn't know anything about canning them days, but I th ink I lived just as well as I do now.

Well, I must tell you about the Indians. They youst to camp along the creek where A. D. Bancroft lives, both sides of the road there would be eight or ten tents. They covered them over with bark. They built the fire in the middle of the tent, and there was a hole in the top of the tent for the smoke to go out of. They have stakes drove in the ground with crotched ends and a pole laid on to hang their big kettles on when they make their soups of dried venison bones, corn, and beans. They didn't have any beds or chairs, just rolled up in a blanket and lay down anywhere around the fire. One day there was an Indian boy came to the house and said he wanted a "sitpenigun." Of course we didn't know what he wanted, and he went looking around the house and he found the shears and he wanted to borrow them so we learned what they called shears.

mis is from
Adelle Jones,

I will now tell you of an experience I had later in life when I was keeping house in a log house on the place where Frank Parr lives now. I was all alone one night when I saw a man slipping up to the back window peeking through the curtains. First thing I thought of was a crazy man. Gene was asleep in his trundlebed and Frank was running around the house. You can imagine my feelings about then. I took down a shawl and wrapped it around them both and went out the front door like a deer. I run clear over to my folks. When I got there, I was nearly prostrated. I thot then that I would never stay alone again, but I have many a night.

Well, I guess I have told you all you care to listen to so will close with this verse.

We lived not as hermits live
But oft in social converse met,
And fires of love were kindled there.
Merrily passed the time
Despite our wily Indian foe.
In the days when we were pioneers,
Sixty years ago.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES

Dues for an individual membership in the Clinton County Historical Society are \$4.00 per year and \$7.00 per year for a husband and wife. Dues are payable in the first three months of the new year. Payment of dues entitles one to a dual membership in both the Historical Society and the Genealogical Society.

Beginning with this issue and with all subsequent issues your mailing label will indicate the month and year thru which you have an active membership. Since all memberships are on a calendar year basis a label that reads for example " DEC 1987 " will indicate that you last paid your dues in 1987 and have not paid your 1988 or 1989 dues.

The Clinton County Historical Society is a nonprofit Corporation it depends upon donations for its growth and acquisitions. The dues assessed the members only pays for the publication and mailing costs of The Clinton County Trails and The Clinton County Independent.

The active members of this society have requested that all delinquent members pay their fare share and pay their dues up thru 1989. Any extra money received over the \$4.00 minimum will be gladly received as a gift to the Society and may be designated by giver as to its use by the Society.

Complimentary issues of our newsletters are sent to individuals and also to other Societies on an exchange basis with our society. These are indicated by the word " COMP. " at the end of the name field on the mailing label. Dues are not assessed on these issues.

Since our mailings are done by bulk mail rate, it will become necessary for members to notify the treasure of the society of any address changes that are necessary during the year. The post office will not forward bulk mail. It is not considered first class mail. Please send your dues payments and address changes to:

Clinton County Historical Society
Treasure
P.O. Box 174
St. Johns, MI 48879

Sincerely
William Serviss

Volunteers Will Turn Back Clock

High-Powered Crew to Refurbish Gunnisonville School

Sun 10:30
7-6 5/24/74

By UTE AULD
Staff Writer

This won't be an ordinary roof. For one thing, the work crew will be... well, unusual. Swinging hammers and nailing shingles at the old Gunnisonville School at 8:30 this Saturday morning will be a bunch of high-powered guys from the Lansing schools, plus other assorted types not usually known for spending weekends on a rooftop.

Among these volunteers — nobody's getting paid — will be Lansing Supt. of Schools I. Carl Candoli; Robert Chamberlain, deputy superintendent for planning; Oliver Angell, treasurer of the DeWitt Township Board of Trustees and George Anderson, principal of the new Gunnisonville School.

If they're not expert, they're eager. This is a project close to their hearts.

They'll be restoring the one-room Gunnisonville School, now standing empty in a wooded area at Clark and Wood in the northeast corner of the Lansing School District, for use as a "living history laboratory" or "working museum."

In less academic terms, this means that an elementary school teacher could take her class — equipped with box lunches — to the Gunnisonville School for an entire day to give her kids a feeling for the American heritage that was the one-room school.

Aside from the roof, most of the work will be contracted out. The restoration is expected to cost about \$27,000.

A day at "old Gunnisonville" might include such activities as singing songs like "Yankee Doodle," reciting poems by Longfellow, practicing penmanship and drawing the schoolhouse and surrounding area.

The roof project on Saturday will be one tangible step toward achieving the goal of having thousands of youngsters visit the school.

But it's not the first step. It was in February of 1973 that a group of area residents, many of them alumni of the old one-room school built in 1907, first approached the Lansing Board of Education with the idea of restoring the building.

The board agreed to support the effort and the Gunnisonville School Restoration Committee was organized. Committee members are Angell, who is chairman;

State University's Museum has promised a number of 1900-vintage items for the school on a permanent loan basis.

In addition, the Lansing Schools appointed a special assignment teacher to coordinate the district's participation in the restoration.

So far so good.

What's needed now is more money... \$13,075 to be exact. That's the amount of "matching" money the group has come up with in the next six months for the Gunnisonville School to be designated a Michigan bicentennial project.

This summer the school project was unanimously endorsed by the Michigan Place Committee, Lansing's bicentennial organization, as a bicentennial project.

In addition to that, Curt Hanes, Lansing's bicentennial coordinator, has requested a \$13,675 grant from the Michigan Bicentennial Commission for the restoration project.

The Michigan commission has \$40,000 in federal money to dole out to Michigan communities for bicentennial projects.

Hanes is optimistic that the Gunnisonville people will get the \$13,675.

"We were the first ones in there with a project," Hanes said. "It's a solid project and work is under way. I see no reason for the state commission to turn it down."

Hanes also emphasized that this is not just a Lansing effort, but something that might turn into a "regional kind of thing," in which other school districts would send their students to visit the old school.

And the Gunnisonville group is equally optimistic that they'll be able to raise the \$13,675 matching money.

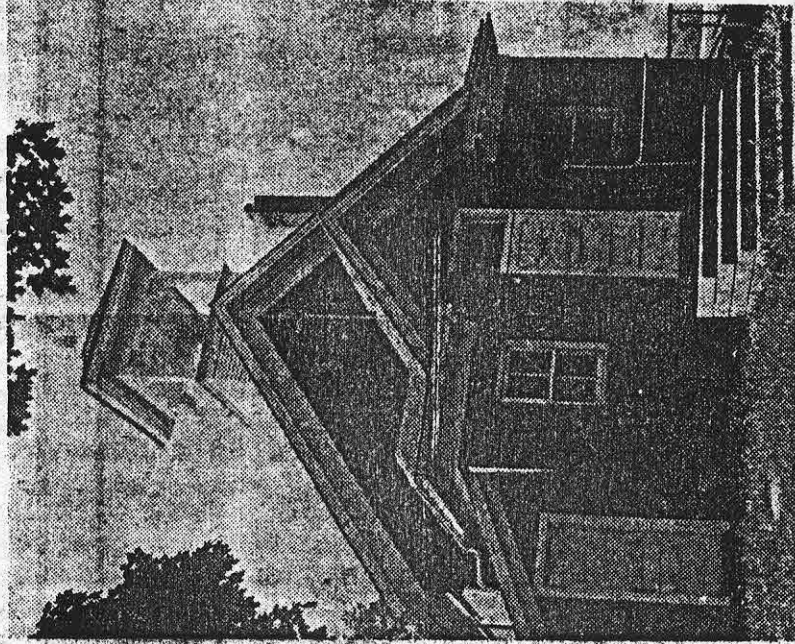
Building materials for the roof will wipe out their existing bank account, but they'll start over this Saturday with a bake and sassafras tea sale at the old school.

Another thing the group could use is more manpower this Saturday, according to Candoli.

"I've got my old clothes all ready," Candoli said, but I'm not skilled at this. I'm just a laborer — they'd probably have me moving supplies and things."

"We could certainly use more hands," Candoli said.

Those who show up at the school won't go hungry. Nancy Cheney, one of the prime movers in the project has promised the work crew a pot luck supper after the roof is finished.



The old one-room Gunnisonville school

George Anderson, vice-chairman; Robert Ruffledge, treasurer, and Louis Baumer, secretary.

In the past year, the committee has raised about \$2,700. Much of that money has come from individual and school organization donations and from the sale of some 1,000 "Gunnisonville Restoration Cookbooks."

The committee also has 28 old school desks, is establishing a tape library to use in the school, and Michigan