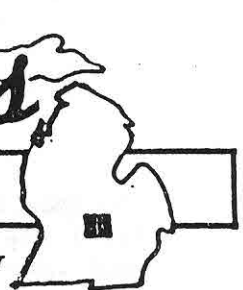


# Clinton County Trails

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.

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## 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, Mar, 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 Dunham's 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

