

Clinton County Trails

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A publication of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society

SORTIN' YESTERDAYS

Loui Emeline Fritz died July 27, 1989, at 91 years of age. In 1960, Loui wrote "Sortin Yesterdays", a story of her life. Her daughter, Mrs. Florence Hartman, has given us permission to use excerpts from her book.

INTRODUCTION

Today is January 10, 1960. We are well started on a new decade, the 1960's. I, Loui Emeline Sandford Fritz, am writing these stories as they have touched my life.

As I look back, my children, grandchildren and great grandson are living in a far different world today than I did when I was a little girl.

I was born just before the turn of the century. The Era known as the "Gay Nineties" on September 11, 1898, on a farm near Bannister, Michigan.

My parents were Charles and Ethel McQuiston Sandford. I was the oldest of five children, four girls and a boy (one died in infancy). I like to look back on my life in Decades.

Memorial of the McQuiston and McVicker family. Robert McQuiston Sr., born in Derry County, Ireland married Isabel Wallace born in Derry County, Ireland. They came to America, settled in Butler County, Pennsylvania about 1805. Raised a family of eight children. Isabel Wallace McQuiston died of dropsy in 1835 at age 55 or 56. Robert McQuiston Sr. died in the year of 1866 in the 88th year of his age.

Archibald McVicker born in Scotland, married Jennie Hartew born in Ireland. She was counted the most beautiful woman in County Antrim.

Daniel McVicker, son of Archibald McVicker, born in Ireland came to America and married Nancy Bowland, born near Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Nancy Bowland McVicker left a widow with six Children, five boys and one girl, married Hugh McGill, had four children, two boys and two girls. Died of consumption in 1835 in the 55th year of her age. Nancy Bowland's mother was Nancy Polly.

Robert McQuiston Jr., born 1809, married Nancy McVicker in 1830. They bore 11 children, nine boys and two girls. One daughter dying in infancy; two sons dying, one at the age of 31 and one at the age of 28. The family now consists of 7 sons and one daughter.

Written by Warren Y. Reeves, July 8, 1889, granddaughter of Robert and Nancy McQuiston.

The preceding paragraph is an exact copy of the records in the old McQuiston family Bible, (My mother's family). The Bible was given to me when my Grandmother, Emma McQuiston, died in 1949. It was her father-in-law's Bible. It has been in the family since 1830.

Sometime in the late 1860's, my Great-Grandfather, Robert McQuiston, decided to leave Butler County, Pennsylvania for the wilds of Michigan. So he packed up his seven sons, one daughter and wife and worldly goods and settled in St. Johns, Michigan.

There were acres and acres of beautiful pine woods to be milled in Saginaw County. He set up a lumber mill in Chapin Township, Saginaw County on the Wes Lewis place, now owned by Scott Hartwick, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of Fenmore. In the early 1870's he and four sons, James, John, Hugh and Julius, purchased a section of land all pine woods, three miles north and west of Fenmore. In the early 1870's, he and the boys built the big McQuiston Lumber Mill. Part of the land was in Elba Township, Gratiot County. The four brothers, James, John, Hugh and Julius, married the four daughters of Hiram and Sarah Tracey Burch, Elizabeth, Emma, Ella and Alice (the latter twins).

Hugh McQuiston was my grandfather, he married Sarah Emeline (Emma) Burch on April 15, 1876. To the Union were born four children. Sarah Agnes, Leonard Julius, Ethel May and Mabel Alice. Ethel was my mother.

Continued.

July 14, 1989

Catherine Reed
581 West State Road
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Dear Catherine:

I would like to submit some material for use in Clinton County Trails' future issues. My McPherson and Badgerow families were early pioneers in Clinton county. The Badgerows moved on, but the McPhersons are buried mostly in Sowle Cemetary near Maple Rapids. Two Badgerow daughters married into the Frink family & are buried in St. Johns.

I enjoy your quarterly publication. I know it takes alot of work & time to produce it. My suggestion would be to reprint from time to time records found in the County History where many of the pioneers were recorded. Our Grand Rapids Public Library has micro-films of some of your records which I have searched. I do want to find time to travel to your Historical Museum to further check your records when I can.

Keep up the work of informing us of our heritage!

Sincerely,



Faye Ann Bristol
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Sparta, MI. 49345

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P.S. Why not print the names listed on the Civil War monuments in your cemeteries? I was particularly interested in the marker in Sowle cemetary as you will note in my accompanying information.

Joseph Murey MCPerson was killed in the Civil War and is listed on the Sowle monument. He was a brother of my great-grandmother, Mary McPherson Badgerow.

DEATH OF FRANK BADGEROW: Clinton county man killed in Upper Peninsula.

Frank Badgerow, formerly a resident of Essex, was killed in a saw mill near Kenton, in the Upper Peninsula, December 14. The following account is taken from a Germask paper:

"A deep gloom was cast over this community Wednesday evening by the report of the accidental death of Frank Badgerow. Mr. Badgerow was employed as sawyer by August Nordine who is operating a portable saw mill a mile southwest of town. On account of the poor service a belt sawdust conveyor was giving, he under took to make some repairs underneath the machinery while the mill was in motion. No one saw the accident and as Badgerow uttered no sound, a warning came only when the motion of the machinery was affected.

The engine was stopped and an examination made. Underneath the belt was found the lifeless form of the unfortunate man. From appearance, death must have been instantaneous. The coroner's verdict was accidental death, his employer being exonerated from responsibility (sic) - responsibility.

Mr. Badgerow was a widower, his wife having died nineteen years ago. He was forty-nine years of age, and a shingle weaver by trade. He formerly lived at Harrison, Trout Lake and Germfask, Mich., until last year, which he spent in the Dakotas coming to Kenton from there and making his home on a piece of land near here last spring in order to be near his two daughters, Mrs. Chas. Clumpner and Miss Badgerow, who reside here. A brother Charles and a sister, Mrs. Ida Pell of Dollarville, and another daughter, Fanchon, living with her grandfather at Harrison are the immediate surviving members of the family of the deceased."

Mr. Badgerow was a son of David Badgerow and Mrs. Mary Badgerow, formerly Mary McPherson, both deceased, of Essex. He left home about twelve years ago but will be remembered by many in this county. Besides the relatives mentioned in the above article, he leaves a brother, Claud, of Nevada, and three sisters: Mrs. E. Frink and Mrs. Martha Frink of Essex and Phoebe Nelson of the state of Washington.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN NEWSPAPER IN DECEMBER 1905.

(Frank's full name was Francis LaFayette Badgerow and two of his sisters were omitted from the obituary: Della Shippy of Lake City and Flora Branyan of Battle Creek.)

EXERPT FROM CLINTON COUNTY HISTORY p. 463:

The State Road - The old state road, laid out between Lansing and St. Louis, was a famous highway in its day, not only for the great volume of travel flowing over its surface, but for the road side inns which dotted it at frequent intervals and refreshed as well as sustained the weary wayfarers of the time. The road is still much traveled and boasts still numerous roadside inns, of which there are three in Greenbush township. The pioneer tavern on the road in Greenbush was one put up by William Wyman, or Yankee Bill, as he was called, on section 8 just east of the burying-ground. Yankee Bill's tavern was a poor sort of an affair, and although it suited well enough in the absence of other places of entertainment, it was relegated to obscurity as soon as better taverns appeared upon the road. Presently Drake's and Coleman's taverns presented excellent claims upon the traveling public, and farther north, about 1860, Chauncey Morton moved into a house built by Stephen McPherson, at what is now McMaster's Corners, and converted it into a tavern. A post-office was established at Coleman's Corners about 1858, and named Keystone, presumably by some admirer of Pennsylvania or of Buchanan, who was then in the Presidential office. Horace Caster was appointed postmaster, but the business of the office proving insignificant, it was soon discontinued. Shortly afterwards the office was renewed and located at Chuancey Morton's old tavern-stand, then being kept by George W. Miller and called the Union Home. The latter name was likewise the one bestowed upon the post-office, and that name it yet bears. The office was abolished in 1864 and restored in 1871, with James C. Barrus as postmaster,

