

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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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,

who moving away in 1876 was succeeded by William Carns, and the latter in 1878 by the present incumbent, S. L. McMaster. A daily mail is received over the route between St. Johns and St. Louis.

PAGE 462-3 have a list of voters in Greenbush township in 1844 and 1850:

1844 - Nathan Spooner, John Ferdon, James M. Stiles, L.M. Richmond, William Ingalls, O.B. Stiles, David Richmond, E.B. Stiles, John Avery, S.M. Rowell, Joseph Russell, Thomas Beach, Edwin Holbrook, Orange Whitlock, Amos Avery, William Russell, William Bentley, Jonathan, Aldrich, James Stiles, W.N. Daggett, N.W. Aldrich, David Sevy, Marvin Greenwood, Herod Morton, Horace Avery, John I Tinkelpaugh, John Manchester, Truman Watson, Alvah Richmond.

1850- Nathan Spooner, John Sevy, Luman Wilcox, Edwin Holbrook, A.E. Bryant, Joseph Russell, R.L. Carroll, Stephen Pearl, Lewis Richards, O. Whitlock, R.B. Cowner, James Sargent, James Russell, Amos Avery, Philip Thomas, Marvin Greenwood, William L. Massey, John Manchester, James H. Kennicott, H.S. Fisk, Jehiel Dunning, O.P. George, Parsons Jeffreys, Henry Smith, A. E. Olin, James M. Stiles, Erastus Tinkelpaugh, James R. Carter, Walter Hulbert, Zelotes Avery, Samuel M. Rowell, B.W. Hobert, William Besley, Addison Hulse, W.M. Daggett, John I. Tinkelpaugh, William Johnson, William Russell, Isaac Eagle, William Badgerow, O.B. Sevy, Horace Avery, D.B. Cranson, I.B. Freece, L.W. Stiles, Nathaniel Russell, I.A. Hooker, O.M. Pearl, George w. Richmond, D.F. Badgerow, Benjamin Stiles, A.H. Richmond, O.B. Stiles, Harmon Richmond, David Sevy, F.O. Richmond, Alvah Richmond, David Richmond, John C. Fox.

CLINTON COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORDS:

- 93/A40: Jesse Bagero, 23 & Carline Tinklepaugh, 21, Owosso, 22 July in Greenbush by H. Harrison, J.P., David Sevy and John Avery Junior, Greenbush witnesses.
- 278/130 James Bagarow, 20 & Zeruah Hulbert, 16, 4 June 1851 at the house of the widow Russel in Greenbush by Isaac Eagles, J.P., William Bagerow & Parl Gardner, Greenbush witnesses.
- 314/A135 Jefferson Hulbert, 21 & Almira Bagrow, 19, both of Greenbush, 21 March 1852 at the house of Walter Hulbert in Greenbush, by Isaac Eagles, J.P. Nathaniel Russell & Jephtha Owen both of Greenbush witnesses.
- 301/A130 Chester Dean, 22 & Miss Mary W. Frink, 17 both of Essex 25 May 1851 at the house of Martha Frink, Essex by Chauncey S. Wolcott J. P., Albertine E. Wolcott & Jasiael Frink witnesses.
- 537/A234 J. C. Sewel, 56 Bingham & Martha Frink 56 of Essex 5 Feb. 1856 in Essex by John Young J.P. Josiel Frink & Melissa Frink of Essex witnesses.
- 302/A130 David Badgerow, 22 & Miss Mary McPherson, 16, both of Essex 29 June 1851 at the house of Chauncey S. Wolcott in Essex, by Chauncey S. Wolcott, J.P., Martha P. Eldridge & Mrs. Albertine E. Wolcott of Essex witnesses.
- 183/A75 James R. Carter, 21 & Miss Susan McPherson 21, Essex, 11 Feb. 1849 at the residence of Stephen McPherson in Essex by H. Hammond, J.P., David McPherson & James W. Carter both of Essex witnesses.
- 635/A233 Lyman Van Sickles, 22 & Martha McPherson, 23 of Essex, 27 Jan 1856 by John Young J.P., Horace Sowl & Charges J. Young Essex witnesses.
- 837/A307 Asher A. Van Sickle, 20 Essex & Amanda E. McPherson 18 31 Jan. 1864 by Edwin D. Webster, J.P., no witnesses mentioned.
- Charles W. Brown, 21 Essex & Sarah McPherson, 16 14 Jan. 1854 by Obadiah Lyon, J.P. David McPherson & Sarah McPherson Essex, witnesses.

In 1845 the people voted to pay as town bounties two dollars for each wolf-scalp, one dollar for each bear-scalp & two cents for each blackbird killed in the township.

In the winter of 1840-41 while Essex formed part of Bengal, the first school was established in township 8 north, of range 3 west. Its sessions were held in the upper part of James Sowle's log house, and Miss Emily Moss, daughter of Solomon Moss, presided as teacher. Her pupils, seven in number, were the children of James Sowle and Parley Gardner. According to the school law then prevailing, nine scholars or children of school age were necessary to form a district and enable it to draw money from the public school fund. As the two families could muster but seven children, Bengal authorities refused to organize a district, consequently Miss Moss' school was a private one.

On the 2d of January, 1845, School inspectors Lyman Webster, Timothy H. Pettit, and Chauncey S. Wolcott formed school district No. 2; - The first meeting to be held at the house of James Sowle, Jr., Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1845, at one P.M. District No. 1 was formed in December, 1846 - - the first school-meeting to be held at the house of Chauncey S. Wolcott, Tuesday, December 15, 1846 at six P.M. "So says the record. But why district No. 2 was formed prior to No. 1 we cannot determine".

EARLY TEACHERS: Miss Martha Grooch or Gooch received a teacher's certificate May 26, 1849, and is the first mentioned in the school inspectors' books as having received one. Other early teachers are mentioned by years, as follows: 1850 - Harriet Bliss, Sarah Jane Lyon, Helen E. Stevens, Mary Richmond and Lovina Stone.

1851- Miss T.M. Doty, William Mather, David F. McPherson, D.W.C. Beach.

1852- Emeline Moss, Francis A. Chappell, Mrs. Armstrong.

1854- Emeline Moss, Catherine Ocobock, Mary P. Richmond, Mary L. Kipp, Maria Hawkins, Miss T.M. Doty, William J. Moss, Martha Pierson, Hannibal Gaskell, Mrs. Gunsolly.

1855- Mary L. Webster, Miss H.L. Cole, Mary L. Seaver, Mary Hill, Mary A. Moore, America Hoyt, and Eleazer A. Darrow.

1856- Sarah L. Cole, Julia A. Skinner, Mary J. Vail, Pamela Bliss, Mr. E. I. Abbott, William J. Moss, N. K. Hane.

1857- Alice Moore, Mary J. Partridge, Adelia M. Smith, Martha Avery, Mary Hill, T.R. Bush, Elisha Mudge, Eleazer N. Darrow, Elizabeth Doane.

1858- Mary Coryell, George W. King, Mary A. Moore, Miss Baker, Lucy E. Freeman, O.S. Ingham, James N. Wallace, Miss H.A. Taft.

1859- Charlotte Nethaway or Hathaway, Laura Harrington, Charlotte H. Miller, Julia Sessions, Martha Avery, Anderson Stout, O.B. Gunnison, Myron S. Moss, Oliver G. Webster, Charles T. Lyon, Lois Mudge, Eunice M. Eddy, Elon Reynolds, Charles E. Hollister.

1860- Maomi J. Evertt, Mary Hill, Angeline Rush, Amelia Brown, Oliver G. Webster, Mary M. Coryell, America Hewitt, William Scott, Alanson Mathews, Jane Strever, Myron A. Dunning, William M. Colby, William Hill.

HISTORY OF 1896 PIONEER SKETCH: page 345

James R. Carter - No history of Clinton county would be complete without mention of James R. Carter, who for fifty-seven long years has resided within its borders, witnessing the transformation that has occurred as the county has emerged from a forest district into a region of rich fertility, and not only has the work of agriculture been carried steadily forward, for in the towns and cities progress has been made along industrial and commercial lines and Clinton county has become possessed of all the advantages, improvements and conveniences known to the older east.

4.

Mr. Carter is numbered among the prosperous farmers of Greenbush township, being the owner of one hundred and twenty-two acres of good land on section 10. He arrived in Clinton county on the 15th of October, 1848, being at that time a young man of twenty years. His birth had occurred in Loudoun county, Virginia, February 12, 1828. His father, Charles Carter, was also a native of that locality, born February 6, 1800, while the paternal grandfather was a native of Germany but became one of the early residents of Virginia, settling there when it was still one of the colonies of Great Britain. However, when an attempt was made to throw off the yoke of British oppression he became a soldier in the Revolutionary war and aided in establishing the new republic. Charles Carter was reared to manhood in Virginia and was married there to Miss Melinda Craven also a native of that state. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and assisted in the erection of a residence for President James Monroe. In 1835 he removed to Ohio, taking up his abode on a farm in Mulberry township, Knox county. In 1849 he removed to Michigan, where he joined his son, J. R. Carter, and spent his last years, passing away here on the 4th of November 1864. His first wife died in Ohio about 1837 and he afterward married again. By the first marriage there were three children: Sarah E. who became the wife of Parson Jeffers, of Eureka, and died here, hers being the first interment in Eureka cemetery; James R. of this review; and Mrs. Mahala A. Hulse, of Greenbush township.

With his brother-in-law, James came to Clinton county in 1848 and from the government entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he yet resides. The following spring he began to clear this property and he worked in a sawmill one winter, while the summer months were given to his farm work. After clearing a little tract of land he built a log cabin and further continued the work of improving and cultivating his place.

As a companion and helpmate for life's journey he chose Miss Susan McPherson and they were married in Essex township, February 11, 1849, a day prior to the twenty-first anniversary of his birth. Mrs. Carter was born and reared in Loudoun county, Virginia, and was a daughter of Stephen McPherson, who removed from the Old Dominion to Ohio and afterward came to Michigan, settling in Clinton county in 1848. The young couple began their domestic life in a little log cabin in the midst of the woods. They were pioneer settlers but the country was rapidly becoming settled, for in the winter of 1848-9 forty-four hundred acres of land were entered in this locality. Mr. Carter lost his first house through fire. All were away from home at the time and the loss was quite a serious one in consequence, as nothing was saved. He later built a good neat residence, to which he has since added and now has a comfortable home. Later he built a good house for his son and has also built substantial barns and outbuildings. Mr. Carter assisted in organizing the first Christian association in this part of the county - a Methodist class, which was formed in 1849. He is the last survivor of the original eleven members of that class. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church & was first master of Greenbush lodge, A. F. & A. M. Politically he was originally an old line whig and is now a republican. He was elected and served for four years as township treasurer, was highway commissioner two years and has been a member of the school board.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE ONLY EXCERPTS OF THE INFORMATION, BUT I WILL SEND IT ALL FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ANYWAY.

This is a personal Thank You to Faye Ann Bristol for her informative articles. We used them just as presented.