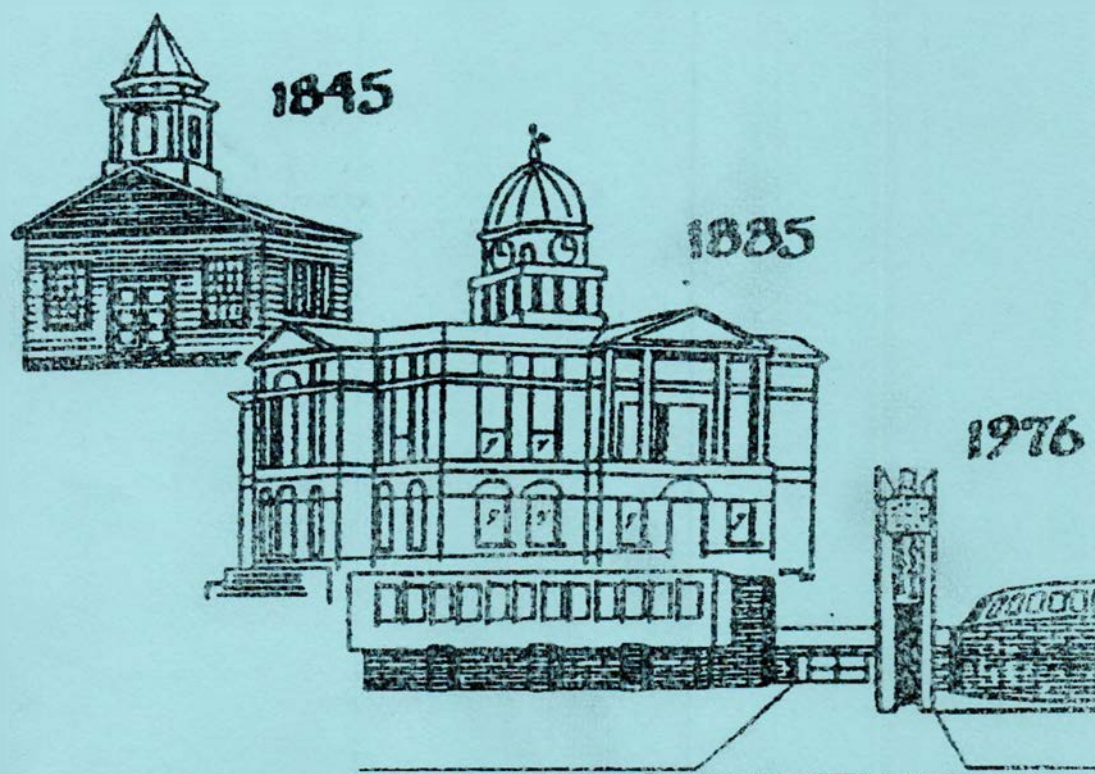


# EATON COUNTY QUEST

A Magazine for the Eaton County Genealogical Society  
Eaton County, Michigan



Issue #61

November, 2007

## **EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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### **EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY RESEARCH ROOMS**

Are located on the ground floor of the  
1885 Historical Courthouse on the corner of Lawrence Avenue and  
Cochran Avenue in downtown Charlotte, Michigan  
Hours are Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Phone 517-543-8792

## EATON COUNTY QUEST

Issue #61

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### Contents

President's Letter

New Web Site 1

Dedication 2

Newspaper Research 2

Vermontville Scrapbook #2 10

John Dolson 11

Luren D. Dickinson, Eaton County's 37<sup>th</sup> Governor of Michigan 13

What's New at the ECGS Library 17

Membership History of the Eaton County Genealogical Society 18

Would You Believe? 19

Letter Submitted by Joan Whitworth Glasgow 20

Chester Township 22

The Center of the County 24

New in the Genealogy Room 26

Research Finds 26

Greetings Eaton County Genealogical Society,

I am very pleased to introduce to you this addition of the Eaton County Quest. Thank you for your patience.

As most of you may know, the society faced a huge change this year. Drouscella Halsey retired as our Eaton County Quest editor. We all wish her the very best and hope to see her often at the Eaton County Genealogical Library.

It is our good fortune, however, to announce that Vicki Dukes has volunteered to become our new editor. Vicki recently retired from her "day job". If you have any ideas or articles you would like to contribute for future issues of the Quest should please contact Vicki at ([dukesvld@peoplepc.com](mailto:dukesvld@peoplepc.com)). The ideas or articles should be concerning your family research in Eaton County or other topics pertaining to the county.

We have a new microfilm printer/reader with computer interface. This means microfilmed images can be scanned to a flash drive, CD, or a floppy disk. The new reader/printer has other nice specialty features as well. Thanks to all who have contributed. Long anticipation, but success is sweet.

Due to the fact that we lost our ability to update our site, ECGS is no longer on rootsweb. Our new web site is: <<http://www.miegs.org>. Sherry Copenhaver, our new webmaster, has developed this very informative computer site. She is also working on software for our new computer so that information on our many holdings can be found more easily.

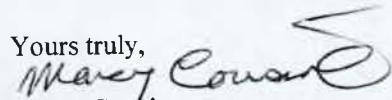
Of a broader county interest, ECGS library has had some unusual scholars digging into the past. Eastern Michigan University students from the Historic Preservation Masters's program have been hired by Eaton Rapids Downtown Development Authority. The students' goal is to perform the necessary research and documentation, which led to them writing a grant proposal so that the Island City of Eaton Rapids could apply to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The project started in the Fall of 2006. The State Historic Preservation Office should give notice by the end of 2007 if Eaton Rapids will be nominated and the application will then be sent on to the National Parks Service for further consideration. The students are giving copies of their research to each individual building owner and the city library for the public's use.

Finally ECGS in conjunction with the Eaton County Historical Commission would like to invite anyone with direct line ancestors who have lived in Eaton County 100+ years, to honor that ancestor. To learn more, see Pioneer Certificate Project link on the ECGS website.

If anyone has any Eaton County related items such as old histories, family bibles or diaries, why not donate a copy to the ESGS library? That way, we all can benefit.

The November meeting is the last one until March, but don't cave in to cabin fever this winter. Members meet every Monday night 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for indexing. See you there!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marcy Cousino". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marcy Cousino  
President



# Eaton County Genealogical Society

Located in the 1885 Eaton County Historical Courthouse

100 W. Lawrence Ave., P.O. Box 337, Charlotte, MI 48813-0337

*(click here for map)*

**NEW WEB PAGE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

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Updated August 2007

## **Regularly Scheduled Room Hours**

Monday thru Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Please call ahead if coming from a long distance to ensure room is open. Phone (517) 543-8792

Note: Appointment may be made outside of regular hours by contacting Society by phone or by e-mail at [tsthuma@juno.com](mailto:tsthuma@juno.com).

For research requests, please e-mail at [ecgsoc@juno.com](mailto:ecgsoc@juno.com).

## **Scheduled Speakers for the Monthly Meetings**

See the Monthly Programs page to see who is scheduled for upcoming meetings.

## **Note From the Web Master**

**If there is something you would like to see on the web page, contact me at [scopenhaver@miegs.org](mailto:scopenhaver@miegs.org) to see if it is possible. Thanks!**

This issue of the quarterly has been dedicated to Drouscella Halsey. Drouscella has been the editor of the Quest for the past several years.

ECGS started in 1988 in order to encourage and facilitate genealogy as well as to protect and organize many old Eaton County records that were in danger of being destroyed when the county government moved to its new complex.



Drouscella is not only one of the charter members, she also became ECGS' very first president. Over time, she filled every position available, from recording secretary to research assistant. Under her editorship, the society's publication, the Eaton County Quest, became more of a magazine than the usual newsletter published by similar size organizations.

Drouscella and her husband, Stanley, were honored at a potluck on July 18, 2007. We wish them well as they split their time between Michigan and Louisiana.



## **Newspaper Research**

by  
Shirley Gage Hodges

This article was originally written for the Global Gazette and is used here with their permission.

Newspapers are of tremendous value to the historian and genealogist. The newspapers chronicle current events and the people involved in them. Unfortunately, genealogists in search of their ancestry all too often overlook this valuable source. Even though we read the newspaper daily we forget that our ancestors were often mentioned in these earlier gazettes. Newspapers that were published during the time that our ancestors lived can provide important background on our families. We can learn not only about the communities in which they lived, but also about the churches and associations they attended or had memberships in. Sometimes those little snippets that we find in the newspaper are the only thing we can find that will help us place our ancestor in a certain place at a certain time. The accounts from the old newspapers can help us flesh out the stories about our ancestors.

We have to remember that the newspapers of old left nothing to the imagination when they published their stories. Fortunately for us, they felt that every "juicy" story deserved to be told. They certainly didn't understand the concept of being politically correct. Sometimes the details can be rather appalling, revolting or just rather humorous when we can view them with the comfort of the distance of time.

We can read all of the history and social history books available, but we can certainly better understand the lives of our ancestors when we find their stories in the old newspapers. You can really get a better sense of what your ancestors were experiencing after reading about an event or a time or place in history when you read it in a newspaper that was printed there and then.

The denominational newspapers should not be overlooked as they were also full of births, deaths and marriage information. They also included editorials on how you should vote and feel about every subject imaginable.

Some of the best features of the newspapers are the "Fifty Years Ago This Week" or columns of that nature. Sometimes you will find a reference to a person who is now deceased or information about an event that happened long ago.

Some of the types of items to be found in newspapers:

- **Advertisements** -- if your ancestor was a merchant, these ads can provide its location, and the types of goods or services provided to the community. It may also give you an indication of how successful their business was.
- **Articles about local disasters** -- listings of people who may have been injured or killed during a disaster can be very valuable in locating an ancestor. I just recently found the newspaper that contained the story about a tornado that hit my childhood home. It is a wonderful item to include in the family history. Since I was 10 at the time, my memory was a little sketchy about the details.
  
- **Births** -- parent's names, date of birth, sex; sometimes name of child and sibling information.
- **Funeral Notices** -- generally brief, listing name and date of death; sometimes funeral home and burial information is included.
- **Gossip columns** -- information varies from a brief mention to lots of details about family, relations, etc. These can be some of the most fascinating and helpful things you will find in the newspaper. Also, remember to look for birth or death announcements in the social items. Before hospitals, a pregnant woman may have gone to her mother's or sister's home to give birth.
- **Legal Notices** -- information on estates, sometimes listing living heirs. You can also find information on foreclosures and sheriff's sales.
- **Lists of new arrivals in the community** -- names of immigrants arriving in a community
- **Marriage** -- names of bride and groom, date of marriage; sometimes the church, parent's names, wedding party information. Some times you get really lucky and find things like references to the couple's clothing, gifts received, wedding guests or attendants, and sometimes the couple's occupation and residence



- **News** -- anything from social events, news of prominent citizens, military information (during wars), business notices and news, etc.
- **Obituaries** -- information can vary from name and date of death, to age, family information, and a biography of the deceased.
- **Prison and Jail Records** -- gives details about sentences and jail terms. Now I realize that most of us would find no need for this type of information but I mention it just in case.
- **Proving up notices** -- one of the requirements of the Homestead Laws was the advertising of "proving up" notices.
- **School Class** -- lists of students graduating for that year.
- **Trial Proceedings** -- provides details of court cases

#### Thoughts about newspapers from some famous folks:

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." -Thomas Jefferson, 1787.

"For my part I entertain a high idea of the utility of periodical publications; insomuch as I could heartily desire, copies of ... magazines, as well as common Gazettes, might be spread through every city, town, and village in the United States. I consider such vehicles of knowledge more happily calculated than any other to preserve the liberty, stimulate the industry, and ameliorate the morals of a free and enlightened people." - George Washington, 1788.

"I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one." - Mark Twain, 1870

The following excerpts are from various Eaton County newspapers. I discovered them when I was researching my Williams family. Occasionally the references are vague or use only initials. I have included these because some-times these little "snip-its" are the only clues we get about people. Information on people who have married into the Williams families is also included.

Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 3 April 1858.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 1 April 1858. Among those listed: John B. Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 20 March 1858.

List of claims submitted to the Eaton County Board of Supervisors at the October 1857 and January 1858 sessions. Among those submitting fees for Coroner's Jury: Ancil Williams.

Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 3 July 1858.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 1 July. Among those listed: Alva Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 5 March 1859.

Annual Report of the Board of Supervisors for 1858. Among Claims Presented -  
For Witness in Justice Court - Peter Williams.  
For Justice of Peace - A. R. Williams



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 12 March 1859.

Married. In Alden, Erie Co., New York. 6 March, at the residence of the bride's grandfather, John H. Ray to Miss Mary F. Williams, both of Charlotte.

Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 16 July 1859.

A list of Deeds and Mortgages by the Eaton County Register's Office which are unrecorded because of non-payment of fees, etc. Among those listed:

#### Deeds

Grantors  
Auditor General  
Harvey Williams

Grantees  
Harvey Williams  
Simeon Harding

#### Mortgages

Mortgagers  
George W. Williams

Mortgagees  
R. W. Lyon



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 24 September 1859.

Included in a listing of members of the Teacher's Institute of Charlotte, MI: Albert Williams, Daniel Williams and Egbert Williams. They were all from Charlotte.

Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 8 October 1859.

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Qualified Voters of Fractional School District #1 of Carmel and No. 2 Eaton, held at East School House on 26 September. Elected to one year term: Wolcott B. Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 22 October 1859.

Proceedings of the Eaton County Circuit Court, October term. Listed among Petit Jurors: Ancil Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 11 May 1860.

Chancery Sale. - John D. Loomis and Philetus Nyman vs. John S. and Sarah E. Williams, John C. Spencer and Samuel and Harriet A. Martin.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 25 May 1860.

Sheriff's Sale - Against David and Thomas Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 3 August 1860.

Article on Meeting of Ladies Banner Association 1 August. Listed among committee members to receive suggestions as to style/design of the banner - Mrs. A. R. Williams.



Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 28 September 1860.

Married. In Vermontville, 21 September, at the residence of Rufus Haner, by E. O. Smith, Esq., Mr. Chas. Lake and Miss Mary L. Williams, of Vermontville.

Source: *EATON COUNTY REPUBLICAN*. 21 Feb. 1862.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 15 February. Among those listed: Jefferson Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 25 April 1862.

Taken from a soldiers letter. [Might have been L. O. Smith?] Extracted from those killed or wounded in action: Geo. W. Gates, of Grand Ledge, received a flesh wound to the leg and is doing well.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 2 May 1862.

Married. 30 April at the American Hotel, by Calvin Clark, Esq., Thos. W. B. Williams and Amanda Winsor, all of Brookfield.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 12 September 1862.

A letter from Lieut H. H. Hatch. They arrived at Detroit on 9 September. Among those listed who mustered in the morning of 10 September: Morris B. Williams.

Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 16 October 1862.

Proceedings of the Republican Senatorial Convention held 13 October in Vermontville. Committee on Credentials - Milo Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 12 February 1863.

Proceedings of the Republican County Convention held 7 February in Charlotte. Listed as Delegate to Dist. Judicial Convention: Harvey Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 19 February 1863.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 15 February. Among those listed: Peter Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 23 April 1863.

Proceedings of the Eaton County Circuit Court, April Session. Listed among cases to be heard: Ancil Williams vs. Catherine Russell, et. al.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 21 May 1863.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 15 May. Among those listed: Ema C. Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 23 July 1863.

Married. 22 June, in Charlotte at residence of the bride's mother by Rev. Stephen Hull, Mr. Egbert G. Williams and Miss Elvira Titus, both of Charlotte.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 1 October 1863.

Married. 22 September in Fremont, Ohio, by Rev. H. Lang, Mr. Albert T. Williams of Charlotte and Miss Catherine E. Fisher of Freemont.

Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 8 October 1863.

Article covering highlights of the Fair giving a list of premiums awarded in various categories. Among those listed:

|            |   |                |
|------------|---|----------------|
| Cattle     | - | W. B. Williams |
| Vegetables | - | W. B. Williams |



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 21 January 1864.

Thank you card from W. B. Williams and wife Charlotte. Thanks for the \$80 donation.

Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 31 March 1864.

Egbert G. Williams will offer his house, furniture, garden implements, etc. at auction this Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 14 April 1864.

Married. 1 April in Charlotte, by Rev. E. Whitcomb, Morris B. Williams and Annaliza Grant, all of Chester.

Married. 9 April in Charlotte, at the residence of Harvey Williams, by Rev. Henry Robinson, Mr. Gottlieb Beiswanger of Blue Mounds, Wisc. and Miss Christina Dreifenbacker, of Charlotte.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 25 Aug. 1864.

List of Judges for an upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Eaton County Agricultural Fair. Vegetables: George Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 1 September 1864.

Married. 18 August at residence of E. Hunnewill at Owatonna, Minn by Rev. D. S. Dean, Daniel Williams of Garden City, Minn. and Louisa A. Miller of Ripon, Wisc.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 24 Nov. 1864.

List of Letters in the Charlotte Post Office 23 November. Among those listed: John Williams.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 8 December 1864.

Eaton County Board of Supervisors Proceedings. Among Supervisors present: Peter Williams of Brookfield.

Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 12 January 1865.

Proceedings of the Eaton county Board of Supervisors, 2-5 January 1865. Among the claims presented:

1. Service as Justice - Peter Williams.
2. Supervisor - P. Williams.
3. Sheriff - A. R. Williams



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 16 March 1865.

Among those listed for Commissions of Notary Public: Egbert G. Williams.



Source: *Charlotte Argus*. 30 May 1865.

Levi Dunlap, at work last Saturday in one of Eaton Rapids' Saw Mills, had his hand nearly cut off.



Source: *THE REPUBLICAN*. 24 Aug. 1865.

Order of Publication. Abraham H. Baird vs. Alexander Bowman, Peter Williams and Wm. R. Wilcox. Bowman is a resident of New York.



Thanks to Jan Sedore for sharing the following information.

Vermontville Scrapbook #2 - Page 112, Vermontville, Eaton County, Michigan  
Thursday, July 2, 1931

Mrs. Leon Loveland passed away after a brief illness at her home in Chester last Tuesday. Her death was a terrible shock to relatives and friends. Zella Katherine Williams was born April 25, 1896, and departed this life June 29, 1931, at the age of 35 years, 2 months and 5 days. Her parents were Ellsworth and Sylvia Williams, residents of Eaton County, who preceded her in death. She was married March 11, 1915, to Leon D. Loveland and to this union were born eight children, Donald, Theda Dorean, Lois, Dale, Eugene, Frank and Frances. Besides these left to mourn are the husband, one sister, Mrs. Arthur Simons, of Mulliken, a brother Floyd Williams of Grand Ledge, a step-

father, William Mead of Mulliken, three step-sisters and one step-brother besides a host of other relatives and friends. Zella was of a loving and cheerful disposition, making her home surroundings bright and happy and she will be greatly missed by those who will ever cherish her memory.

The funeral services were held at the home in Chester township, Friday July 3, 1931, at two o'clock in the afternoon. Rev. Fern Wheeler officiated with interment at the Mulliken Cemetery.



The following was contributed by Leila Klaiss.

Thursday, July 23, 1925 - Charlotte Tribune

John L. Dolson, 85

In the passing Tuesday night of John L. Dolson, 85, pioneer resident of this city, Charlotte lost one of its prominent manufacturers. His death at 7:17 p.m., followed an extended illness, he having been confined to his home for the past four years. The funeral will be held from the residence, 219 Prairie St., Thursday at 3:00. Burial beside his wife at Maple Hill. Mr. Dolson was born in Canada.

Surviving are two children, David Elmore Dolson of Charlotte and William Elton Dolson of Kendalville, Indiana; two grandchildren, Gerald Dr. J. Lewis Dolson of this city; and 3 great grandchildren, David and Don of Charlotte, and Don Sherman Dolson of Wisconsin.

March 6, 1936 - Charlotte Tribune

D.E. (Tom) Dolson, died Monday at the home of his daughter-in-law Leita Dolson, 108 Pleasant. Father of Gerald; grandfather of David and Donald; son of John L. husband of Nora Perkey.

John Dolson, a blacksmith and carriage maker by trade, came to Charlotte from Indiana in 1864 and began making carriages and sleighs here. In addition, he had many other business interests and a number of business partners. He owned a furniture store until 1904 and an implement business until 1905.

John Dolson was recalled as a very stylish gentleman who was never seen in anything but a back suit, white shirt, and black tie. The Dolson Carriage Company was Charlotte's largest manufacturer and produced between four and five thousand carriages each year and employed a hundred workers. The Dolsons lived in affluence and their fine homes were among the showplaces of the town.



He had his carriage making business in a building long-since torn down, in the 300 block of north Cochrane, now the location of the Century Mutual building. He sold his portion of the business in 1889, but was already working on the design of a new road wagon and had started construction of a three-story factory for his carriage business at the corner of Lovett and Pearl Streets. By now, he had formed the John L. Dolson & Sons Company with himself as president; W. Elton Dolson as Vice President and D. Elmore Dolson as secretary.

In 1902, John and his sons became convinced the motor car was the vehicle of the future and by September, 1903, they were testing a touring car on the streets of Charlotte. That year, they produced five cars. It is said that about that time, Ransom Olds tried to entice John to come to Lansing and work for him, but John thought he had a good deal going here.

In 1904, 12 cars were manufactured and the carriage business was phased out. They produced 30 cars in 1905 and the name of the Company was changed to the Dolson Automobile Company. That year, you could buy a Dolson for \$1,235.

In 1906, 80 cars were made. Following the San Francisco Earthquake, May 25, 1906, the Dolson automobile agency in San Francisco, which was located across the street from the first fire, had to move its stock of vehicles five times to escape the fire. A Dolson Model C was used to haul tents and tent poles among other things.

Bill Rohlfs, a graduate of Charlotte High School, wrote a wonderful article about the Dolson cars for the publication "Antique Automobile," in 1982 which contains a huge volume of information about the technical aspects of the car if you are interested in motors and transmission and cylinders, etc.

In 1907, the company was in full gear, producing the "Cannon Ball" which was advertised as the Premier Roadster of America. The 2,800- pound, 60-horse-power car, claimed to make an honest speed of 75 miles an hour on a good road, of which there were few. The standard color was bright red and the seating capacity was three. The cost - \$3,250.

But, with the start of 1907 the company was in a precarious situation financially. Banks lent money, officers of the First National Bank, and the Merchants National Bank were placed on the board of directors. Capital stock was increased and stock was sold to investors. But, by the middle of 1907, the Dolsons were in a desperate situation. Even so, by November, the Dolson Automobile Company was bankrupt. The receiver permitted 25 cars to be completed from the inventory and the rest of the stock was purchased by the Times Square Auto Company of New York City.

John Dolson, the founder, went into peppermint farming just outside of Charlotte and the sons continues in the automobile industry. In 1909 the buildings were taken over by the Duplex Power Car Company which made Duplex trucks there until moving to Lansing in 1917. John Dolson died in 1925 at the age of 85.

In 1985, the group of us tried to purchase the last known remaining Dolson Car at auction, but we were outbid by a collector from Massachusetts who still had the car in 2001. We had raised about \$23,000 and our members who were at the auction added money as the price rose, but it did no good. The winner said he would have bid whatever was necessary for the car.



LUREN D. DICKINSON  
EATON COUNTY'S 37th GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN  
By Debra Stadel Eddy

My great-grandmother, Mattie (Leavens) Wilson, was a tiny, little woman, whom I remember from childhood, but never really knew, because she died in 1967, when I was nine. She weighed about 90 pounds, didn't have a car, and was quite poor. She took pleasure in the little things of life, like watching the Lakewood school buses drive past her rural home, between Woodland and Lake Odessa. She would sit outside and wave at the kids. She also enjoyed baking large batches of homemade bread and giving them away to friends and relatives.

My parents had a tradition of inviting relatives over for holiday dinners, and she and my Grandma Myers (her daughter), who were both widows, had a standing invitation. Dad loved nothing better than picking on Grandma Wilson, and she would have thought something was wrong if he hadn't. At dinner he'd carve the meat for everyone and would slip her the turkey neck, or some other undesirable piece of meat. Upon getting her meat, she'd laughed as though he had just played a brand new joke on her. Of course, he would then give her something more palatable. I remember that she loved Brussels sprouts, and although no one else liked them, Mom always cooked them for her. Grandma had a hearty appetite and would eat whatever was on her plate, despite having no teeth.

Grandma Wilson once told my dad that it was a terrible shame that the senators in Washington had to work so hard during the week, and were forced to play baseball on the weekends. She was rather gullible and believed whatever she heard.

Of this fact however, she was both sure and proud: She was a first cousin of Luren Dickinson, Michigan's 37th Governor, because her father, Samuel B. Leavens, was a brother of the governor's mother, Hannah Elizabeth (Leavens) Dickinson.

Luren Dudley Dickinson, known as L.D., was born in Niagara County, New York, on April 15, 1859, to Daniel and Hannah (Leavens) Dickinson, the second of their three children. Marvin was two years older than him, and Emma Deone was two years younger. In the spring of 1860, when L.D. was a year old, the Dickinsons moved to Chester Township, in Eaton County, Michigan, a short distance north of Charlotte. In the fall of 1864, they settled on a seventy-three acre farm on section 21 of Eaton Township.

The land was mostly in a wild condition, and considerable pioneer work was required.

From his early boyhood days, L.D.'s father, Daniel, had engaged in farming, and cultivating small fruits, as well as standard fruits. Daniel Dickinson was said to have had a longer experience in raising strawberries than any other man in Eaton County. He acquired a high reputation, and his products commanded a ready market. Following in his father's footsteps, L.D. was also interested in farming, fruit and tree growing, as well as stock raising.

L.D. completed his grammar schooling in the little country school house near his home, and his high school education at the Charlotte High School. He became a school teacher and taught for 19 years, part of that time serving as principal of the Potterville High School. He later became a school district assessor for eleven years, held the positions of town clerk, and superintendent of schools, and several times filled the office of supervisor. L.D. was also a stockholder in the First National Bank of Charlotte and the Duplex Truck Company of Lansing and Charlotte, and was a member of the Charlotte Grange.

On October 16, 1888, he married Zora Della Cooley, daughter of William T. and Catherine (Nissley) Cooley. Della was 23, he 29. They were neighbors in Eaton County, where she was born. Their mutual interests included a love of the land and devotion to the church where she was organist and chorister, active in the Ladies Aid and already a teacher.

Themselves childless, L.D. and Della adopted his niece, the youngest child of his brother and sister-in-law, Marvin and Carrie (King) Dickinson, following Carrie's death in January of 1892. Ethel was almost two when she came to live with them. She later became the wife of LaVern Patterson, an Eaton Township farmer. They had three children: Della, Robert, and Don.

In politics, L.D. was a member of the Republican county committee for twenty-four years and for four years chairman of the representative committee. He was elected to the state legislature in 1897-98 to represent the second district of Eaton County, and again in 1905-06, and 1907-07 for one session each time. In 1909, he was elected to the Senate for the term covering 1909-10. He received the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor at the primary election August 25, 1914, and at the general election on November 3, 1914, the popular vote placed him in office, where he continued through three successive terms. He then withdrew to private life for a time, but at the general election of November 2, 1926, was again chosen for the office. He was reelected in 1928 and also in 1930, having the unusual record of being chosen six times for that position. L.D. was nominated Lieutenant Governor on the Republican ticket in the campaigns of 1932 and also in 1936, but went down to defeat with the rest of the ticket. He was again nominated Lieutenant Governor in 1938, and elected by the largest majority of any candidate on the ticket.

On March 17, 1939, Luren Dickinson became governor of Michigan, upon the death of Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald ten weeks after taking office. At that time, he was the oldest governor in the United States. He served out the 21 months remaining of the term and was defeated for reelection by Murray D. VanWagoner.

His was a unique political career, one that was embedded in his staunch Methodism and devotion to prohibition. A long-time member of the Anti-Saloon League, L.D. spoke out frequently against sin, gambling, and "high living." During Prohibition, he was ridiculed for his unyielding, uncompromising stand against alcohol, which he considered a mortal sin. His frequent outbursts were the subject of humor to people, and he never took concrete action against gambling or "saloons."

L.D. was not an orator, neither was he politically glamorous. Of medium height and frail, he weighed little more than 120 pounds and the voters knew him as bent and gray. He shunned campaign speeches. His only campaign promises were to make no political promises and to war against evil. He did approve a law requiring public school teachers to give an oath of allegiance to the U.S. government.

His best known political promotion was the annual sale of maple syrup and sugar from the maple trees on his farm outside Charlotte. Each spring, for years, he carried these wares to Lansing. He sold only to friends, and the gift of a jar or cake was a political benediction treasured by the recipients almost above political appointment.

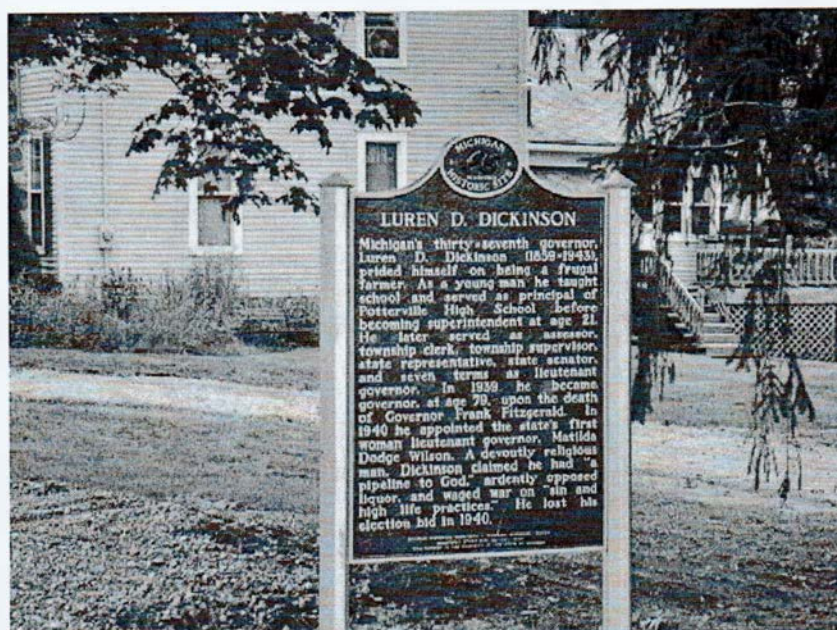
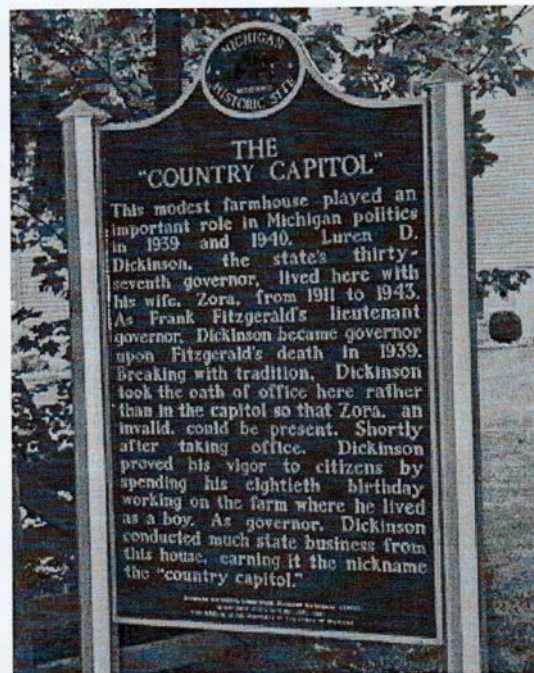
L.D. was active in church groups until his death. A devout member of the Eaton Methodist Episcopal Church [now the defunct Center Eaton United Methodist Church on Brookfield Road] near Charlotte, he served as a Sunday School teacher and one of the church trustees. He was elected eight times to the General or World's Conference, and was also a member or officer of several church commissions.

Luren D. Dickinson died April 21, 1943, at his home near Charlotte, at the age of 84. Death came quietly to the gray little man who once stated he had a 'pipe line to God.' The heart that had driven him through a lifetime crusade against sin--and sin to him included tobacco, drinking, dancing and gambling--faltered. It was not until he wrenched his back working in his garden about a week before his 84th birthday that he surrendered the activities and the labors that had filled his years. He was bedridden from this injury when he died, just six days later.

His devoted wife, Della predeceased him in August of 1940. They are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte.



The following are pictures of the Dickenson house and historical plaques which are located on Brookfield Rd, south of M50 on the east side of the road.



Michigan, a Centennial History Of The State And Its People, Vol. 3, p. 3-4

Portrait and Biographical Album of Barry and Eaton County, sketch of Daniel Dickinson, p. 221-222

Biographical Sketches of Eaton County, Past and Present, sketch of Luren D. Dickinson, located at Carnegie Public Library, Charlotte, MI

Encyclopedia of Michigan , sketch of Luren D. Dickinson, located at Carnegie Public Library, Charlotte, MI

Obituary of Luren D. Dickinson, from the Saranac Advertiser

Oral information from Frank Dickinson of Dimondale, MI, February 24, 1988

A Biographical History of Central Kansas, pub. by Lewis Publishing Co., 1902, sketch of Samuel Bowen Leavens

Barry County, MI, 1985, sketch of Samuel B. Leavens



### What's New at the ECGS Library

by Sharlene Thuma, librarian, [stthuma@juno.com](mailto:stthuma@juno.com)

Note: call numbers are subject to change.

Thanks to everyone who generously donated the following material to our library. It is very much appreciated by E.C.G.S. and our researchers.

\* = a gift donated by....

#### **MICHIGAN:**

##### **Calhoun Co.-**

##### **Book- One-Room Schools of Calhoun**

Co., by Chase (maps of the year 1912

with

driving directions)

ECGS exchange..... 319.21

##### **Eaton Co.-**

##### **Notebook- 1845 Eaton Co. State**

**Census**, abstracted by Erwin & Harmison,

24 pp. \*Krys Simpson ..... 602.1

##### **Notebook- Charlotte Shopping Guide**

Legal Notices 2006, compiled by Krys

Simpson, 2006, 14 pp. (indexed)

\*Krys Simpson ..... 606.2

##### **Book- Family Maps of Eaton County,**

**MI** with homesteads, roads, waterways,

towns, cemeteries, railroads, & more, by

Gregory A. Boyd, 2006 (deluxe edition:

indexed) \*Joyce H. Whitten ..... 612.8

House history- **425 W. Harris Ave.,**

**Charlotte**, (1903-1995) by Thomas E.

Potter, 2006 \*Courthouse Square Assoc.

**ABS.MI.EA.CA.6**

Notebook- Record of Cases of  
Diseases Dangerous to the Public  
Health...1874-1942 (Chester Twp.:  
indexed), compiled by Krys Simpson,  
2007

\*Krys Simpson ..... **Chester.3**  
Books- nine large books of the **Eaton  
Co. Agriculture** (list of farmers;  
1940s-1950s) \*Jack Holbrook ..... **OS.25**

Scrapbook- **Maple Valley News 2006**,  
(births, engagements, marriages,  
anniversaries, deaths), 41 pp. (indexed)  
\*Krys Simpson ..... **SB.72**

#### **Jackson Co.-**

Book- **Oyers Corners to Springport: A  
Nostalgic Journey**, by Cox & Dobbyn,  
1976 (2006 edition), 300 pp.  
ECGS purchase ..... **339.16**

#### **SURNAMES:**

Notebook- **BEAMAN Genealogy**  
**1733-2007**, compiled by Virgil Hoftrezer,  
2007 \*Virgil Hoftrezer ..... **900.BE.05**  
Notebook- **Descendants of Charles  
CROZIER**, compiled by Sherry Graham

\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.CR.01**  
Notebook- **ELLS & SHOCKEY  
Genealogy**, compiled by Robert C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.EL.01**  
Notebook- **GOODNOE, KINGMAN &  
McCLINTOK Genealogy**, compiled  
by Robert C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.GO.05**  
Notebook- **KIPLINGER Genealogy**,  
compiled by Robert C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.KI.05**  
Notebook- **KIPLINGER & WEAVER  
Birth & Death Certificates**  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.KI.06**  
Notebook- **PENCE & SHANCE  
Genealogy**, compiled by Robert C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.PE.05**  
Notebook- **RULISON Genealogy**,  
Compiled by Robert C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.RU.06**  
Notebook- **Abraham WEAVER's Army  
Medical Records**, compiled by Robert  
C. Kiplinger  
\*Robert C. Kiplinger ..... **900.WE.14**



### **MEMBERSHIP HISTORY OF THE EATON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The first organized meeting of the Eaton County Genealogical Society was May 18, 1988. At that time, the Historical Commission, located in the Old Eaton County Courthouse, kept many historical books and records. The Historical Commission allowed the newly formed Society to use these books and provided a room in the Old Courthouse for housing these records and a space for research. Drouscella Halsey was elected the first president in January 1989. On March 8, 1989, the Genealogy Room opened regularly on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Society hosted its first workshop on May 6, 1989. Donations of books and materials began to come in and the room soon became too small. The Historical Commission moved the Society to the present ground floor level, where access to several more vaults was gained to house the growing holdings. Today our holdings are numerous and our membership is growing. We have hosted several workshops with nationally known speakers. Researchers can find a wealth of information, not only relating to Eaton County, but to other areas of Michigan and the world.

I have put together a database that includes everyone that has ever been a paying member of the Eaton County Genealogical Society, 496 entries in total. The following people are charter members. An asterisk (\*) before a name indicates the person is still a member of the Society. A pound sign (#) before a name indicates the person has been a member of the Society all 20 years (1988-2007).



\*Jackie Adams  
 Gladys Allen  
 David Ammon  
 Mary Ellen & LaVern Aves  
 \*#Mary Jean Baker  
 \*#Dorothy Clarke  
 Harriet Converse  
 Debra Eddy  
 Janet Francis  
 Violet Geddie  
 \*#Gaynell & Louis Haley  
 Drouscella Halsey  
 Barbara J. Haun

Nancy Jourdan  
 \*Leila Klaiss  
 Pat Koos  
 \*#Rosemary McCarthy  
 Sandra Mick  
 Jeannine Parker  
 Jean Pixley  
 \*#Betty Polhamus  
 \*#Susan Polhamus  
 Laura Ranville  
 Jill Smith  
 Beverly Wallace

The following people have been members for 15 or more years.

|                   |                              |                    |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Jackie Adams      | Myrtle Fitzgerald            | Dorothy Jones      | Marjorie & Neil      |
| Allen Co. Library | Susannah Fritzler            | Julaine Kern       | Southworth           |
| Linda Austin      | Patricia Geyer               | Carolyn Killeen    | Nancy Sweeney        |
| Larry Ballard     | Betty Goostry                | Florence Lembeck   | Randal Tooker        |
| Anita Billingsley | Irene Gibbons-Warren         | Shelia Mott        | Helen Twitchell      |
| Irene Church      | Grand Ledge Library          | Penny Opdyke       | Henry VanDyke        |
| Patricia Combs    | Louis & Gaynell Haley        | Valerie Radee      | Jean White           |
| Juanita Crampton  | Harriette Hendrickson        | R. Jean Sidnam     | Wisconsin Hist. Soc. |
| Ruth Dane         | Ruth Highfill                | Krystal Simpson    | Barbara Wright       |
| Edith Engel       | Clarence & Shirley<br>Hodges | Barb & Steve Smith |                      |

Joan Bibbings and Robert Haigh, who had both been members for 17 years, passed away this past year.

Our Society continues to grow. Researchers from around the US come to use our facility. There are many opportunities for involvement other than the regular meetings. If you are interested in becoming actively involved, make your wishes known at the Society Room, 517 543-8792.

**Barbara Smith, Membership Chairperson.**



### WOULD YOU BELIEVE? Submitted by Barbara Smith

Would you believe you could join a genealogy group in an area where you have no known relatives and find you have at least six cousins who are members of that group? Here's what happened to me.

My husband Steve and I joined the Eaton County Genealogical Society in 1993. We introduced ourselves that first evening and told what families we were researching. One of Steve's names was Teachout. After the meeting Shirley Hodges introduced herself and said they must be cousins as she has that name in her lineage too. Well, they have yet to find that link.



A couple of years later we got involved in the indexing project at ECGS. That group has included about fifteen people over the years. As I was perusing my genealogy one day, I found that my eighth great grandmother was Anna Polhamus. Susan Polhamus and her mother Betty are members of the ECGS. I took my Pedigree Charts in to indexing and said "hey, I think we are related". Susan looked at them and said sure enough, we're from Anna's brother, Daniel's line. She said Clarence Hodges, also a member of ECGS, comes from Anna's brother, Theodorus' line. Well, I immediately had three cousins right here in the indexing group!

A few years later, Jim Miller joined ECGS and began coming to indexing. As we were talking around the table, he said his great, great, etc. grandmother was Adrianna, Anna's sister – add another cousin.

On a research trip to Ft. Wayne we were discussing our finds over supper. Beverly Dean, an ECGS member was at our table and it came out she also had Polhamus' in her line. Susan noted that Mary Ellen Aves also descended from the Polhamus line – add two more cousins.

So in our small indexing group there are five of us related through Johannes Theodorus Polhamus, each from a different sibling, and two more in the general membership. I can no longer say I have no relatives in Eaton County.



**LETTER SUBMITTED BY JOAN WHITWORTH GLASGOW. MIRA PRESTON  
WAS HER 3<sup>RD</sup> GREAT GRANDMOTHER**

This letter was written by Mira Preston to her granddaughter, Redia Fisher Whitworth, who was residing in Dowling, Michigan. Mira Preston and her son, Carson and his family came to Charlotte from Huntington, Ohio in 1884. Carson was working at the furniture company when they had a big fire. Carson later worked at the railroad depot. He was the father of Roy, Gertrude and Lillian Carson all of Charlotte.

Charlotte, Michigan  
February 18, 1890

Dear Redia and Family and all the rest

As we have got our work done up and Mira is a ironing, I will write you a few lines this morning. I received your ever welcome letter was glad to hear from you again that you all were comfortable. Well, it found us well as common. I have more lazy days this winter than I have had in a good while. Mira has some trouble with her liver and stomach—not any more than she has every year. She had the grip for a few days. Roy, Gertie and Lillian had a hard cold and coughed

a good deal for a week or more. She did not have any chills at all with it. Carson has kept real well all winter so far. It agrees with him better to work in the shop than it does to work in the woods as he did last winter. He is packing furniture to ship now in the manufacturing shop. The shop that he worked in when Edna went home had a fire about three weeks ago. Burnt up finishing house and a lot of furniture that was ready to ship and lot that was not finished. The horse barn that was an old thing saved the two horses. Carson and another man watched the fire all night. He collected for them. The next day that was Wednesday and Thursday he went to work where he is now so he did not lose any time. They are repairing and getting ready to run their mill and shop again. They want Carson back when they get to work. I had a letter from Minda last week to. She said they all had had the grip. Doct was sick in bed for a week. His throat troubles him a good deal. They are all well now. She said there was lots of sickness there this winter. She said they had a mild winter for two weeks in January they had good sleighing more than they had in four years before. She said it was warm and nice now. We all felt quite disappointed Friday and Saturday both because your Mother did not come here. I thought she had been to Nell's two weeks she would come here before she went home. Has Corrie Mashon gone back to Albion to school or does she stay with her mother? Now Master Harry and Fay what do you do now days. Do you go and chase the pigs around the yard. Do you feed them any now the pumpkins are gone. Do you eat lots of apples every day. Can Lena eat as many as you can. Does Ma make you lots of cookies to eat now. Do you and Lena have lots of playing to do now days. Granma Preston would like to step in and see you all and have a good play with you all. Redia tell your mother to write when she gets home and tell me all about her visit. Edna how do you get along in your studies? You and Lil just write me a good long letter. Are you going to Kalamazoo and when? The girls have dropped Latin and Lillian takes Botany. Gertie takes Algebra. They are a getting along pretty well now. Most of their class dropped Latin. I wish you could be here tonight all of you and hear the music. The Sabbath school orchestra is a going to practice here. Lillian is organist. They have put her in again for a year. There is three violinist, one horn and two other instruments I do not know the name of. Gertie plays her violin. The jail is pretty well filled up most of the time. There was 42 in there last week some nights. They have a big time a singing and hollering sounds so they had fun. Good by.

Love to all from Granma Preston.  
All write.



## CHESTER TOWNSHIP

By  
Mary Jean Baker

Sometime In the early 1830s a man named **Bell** built a shanty near the center of Chester Township. However, he deserted and went to Vermontville. Others came, but no one returned to occupy the land until Mr. **Robert M. Wheaton** stopped and looked at the land. He liked what he saw and became the first settler. He came with his wife and was accompanied by **Asa Fuller** and his wife, who settled on his land October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1836.

**Robert M. Wheaton**, was born in Bath, Steuben County, NY, came to Michigan in 1829, at the age of 26; located first in Washtenaw county, where, in 1833, he purchased land on the bank of the river Raisin; in 1834 moved to land he had bought in White Pigeon, Mich. The next year he emigrated to Emmet, Calhoun County; then made his next purchase in Chester, where he settled with his family, October 20, 1836.

**Wheaton Settlement, or Wheaton Corners**, was well known at an early date. Close together, on section 26, five brothers located, namely: **Robert M. Wheaton, Levi Wheaton, Zebulon T. Wheaton, M.A. Wheaton & Samuel Wheaton**. **Robert Wheaton** died on the Chester farm January 17, 1876. A son, **R. Duane Wheaton** became Mayor of Charlotte.

There are **Wheaton** families who still own land in Chester Township today.

**Willard Davis** of Vermontville assisted the **Wheatons** in cutting a road from Bellevue for twenty miles.

**Mr. Wheaton** was the first elected supervisor of Chester. He also was the first sheriff of Eaton County and he held many offices of trust.

**The Williams** brothers came the next June with their mother and two other brothers, **John & Isaac**. They became a prominent family and each of the brothers held public office.

**Jared Bouton** and his brothers, **Israel & Aaron**, moved into Chester Township in February, 1837. They reached the **Bell** shanty and couldn't cross the swollen Thornapple River for several weeks. **Jared Bouton** died in Charlotte May 25, 1865. He came to Chester from Cattaraugus County, New York.

In March, 1837, **Benjamin E. Rich** with his wife and three children came from Adrian. He traded his land in Adrian for land in Chester, sight unseen.

**Amasa L. Jordan, Henry Cook, Asa W. Mitchell, Roswell R. Maxson, Martin Beekman and sons, William, Calvin and Benjamin** were other early settlers to Chester Township.

The township was organized by act of the legislature March 21, 1839. It included what is now both Chester and Roxand. The jury chosen from this double township in May, 1839, was as follows: **Henry Clark, Orrin Rowland, Henry A. Moyer, John Dow, L.H. Boyer, Lemuele Cole, Wm. Tunison, Harvey Williams, Jared Bouton, Aaron Bouton, Asa Fuller, Zeb Wheaton, and Benjamin E. Rich.**

An early wedding was held between **Aaron Boughton** and **Maria Nichols**. Ten years later **George Nichols** married **Sarah Preston**.

*(Article excerpts from Pioneer History of Eaton County, Michigan, by Daniel Strange)*

#### Other Chester Township Tid-bits

**John A. Rich**, of Chester, died at the old home December 25, 1892, aged nearly 93 years. He settled in Chester in 1838

The first County Convention was held at **Robert M. Wheaton's** home. It was held at the log house now standing near his residence which was occupied at the time by his brother, **Levi Wheaton**.

Three-fourths of the acreage of Chester was bought by speculators who anticipated a rich harvest in dollars from the settlements and improvements made by others.

At a town meeting of Chester in 1841 a law was passed, which read: "All swine are not free commoners in time of making maple sugar;" and it was "Voted, That three cents fine be imposed on each swine that is not free commoners for each offense." One of the swinish offenses was sticking their noses into sap troughs during the maple sugar season.

*(Tid-bits from the Michigan Pioneer & Historic Collection)*

#### **Samuel Arnold** **Obituary**

**Samuel Arnold** died at his home in Chester, Thursday forenoon, January 28, 1892, after a long illness of gangrene, aged seventy-six years and eight days. In the death of **Mr. Arnold** the county has lost one of its oldest pioneers and most honored residents, and the Republican Party one of its staunchest supporters. He was born near Harrisburg, Pa., January 20, 1816, but moved directly from Ontario County, NY, where he lived for some time, to this county in

1853. He was one of the founders of the Republican Party "under the oaks at Jackson" and during all these many years has never swerved from the line of devotion of the party which he helped to organize. He was possessed of great strength of character and of many qualities that made him a prominent and highly respected citizen whose death will be sincerely mourned the county over. He was married twice and is survived by his wife and six children by his first wife, all of whom, with the exception of **Edward Arnold**, of Denver, being present at his death.



## THE CENTER OF THE COUNTY

By  
**Mary Jean Baker**

Immediately southeast of the geographical center of the county lies the township of Eaton. From its western part a portion of the city of Charlotte is taken.

The western portion, which included a part of the Charlotte prairie, was very attractive.

In 1834 no land was purchased in Eaton, however in 1835 the following had purchased land: **S. Hamlin, T.R. Smith, S. Aulls, S. Searles, J. Searls, T. Lawrence, R.J. Wells, C.E. Stewart, and L.H. Sanford.**

**Samuel Searles** was the first settler, pioneering his way to the center of the county in October, 1835. In the spring of 1836 **William Wall** and **James F. Pixley** came. They both came from Niagara County, NY in June, 1836. After log cabins were built, their families came. **Mrs. Wall & Mrs. Pixley** did not see a white person outside of their own households. One day, while **Mr. Wall** was hunting for his cattle in the woods, he became aware of the existence of the Charlotte prairie about six miles west of his land. He came across **Amos Kinne** digging potatoes. Then he learned for the first time that **Samuel and Jonathan Searles** and **Stephen Kinne** were also residents of the town. They all were the only inhabitants of the central townships of the county.

The first birth in the east half of the county, and the second in the entire county, was **Phoebe K. Searles**, daughter of **Samuel Searles**.

During the winter of 1835-36, **Mrs. Ruth Searles, Samuel's wife**, was taken sick and died. There was not lumber enough to make a coffin nearer than Bellevue, some fifteen miles and no road through the woods, no one to dig a grave, no one to assist in giving the dead woman a Christian burial. **Mr. Searles** hitched his oxen to a rude sled and put his dead wife on the sled and started out on his sad journey to Bellevue. He cut away the underbrush as he went through a trackless forest to obtain the kind offices of fellow pioneers to aid in giving her body a



decent burial. **Mrs. Searles** was buried in Bellevue, and probably the first white woman who died in the county.

**Samuel Searles** took the young baby back to New York, though his home and hopes were blasted, he did not give up. He brought back his sister **Julia** to keep house for him. They had built a house for **Uncle Jonathan (Searles)** further west, on Searls Street. **Jonathan** went east and brought back his wife, **Aunt Sally Searles**.

**Jonathan's** house became the headquarters for the county. **Sally** did the county cooking for years.

**Stephen Davis** came in the spring of 1837. He turned the first furrows with a civilized plow of land which had been cultivated only by Indians.

In 1839 a post-office was established and **Jonathan Searles** was appointed postmaster.

The **Southworth** families were also pioneers in Eaton. In October, 1836, three brothers, **James, William** and **George Southworth** made a prospecting tour to Eaton County, where they purchased land and settled. **James** was the first to move into Eaton Township in February 1837. He put up a log house during the winter, heating the stones for the chimney back in a fire so that the mortar or mud would stick to them, and the chimney was built of sticks mudded on the inside. Such a house was fairly comfortable, with its puncheon floor split from white ash logs, and with doors and windows.

**William Southworth**, who first settled in Monroe County in 1836, moved to Eaton in August, 1837, and since that has been prominently identified with the township.

In 1844 the town of Eaton had fifty-eight resident taxpayers, which number included those living on that part of the town since taken into the city of Charlotte.

**Samuel Hamlin** was the first supervisor in Eaton Township and also the first treasurer.

The first marriage in the county was in 1837 between **Otis V. Cranson** and **Elizabeth Babcock**.

The first framed barns in Eaton were built by **James Pixley** and **N.P. Frink** and soon after by **Amos Kinne**.

Other early settlers in Eaton were **A.L. Baker**, **Benijah Claflin**, **Geo. Allen** and his sons **Sidney** and **Harry**, **Nathan P. Frink**, **Jonas** and **John Childs**.

In 1844, there were 59 male residents in the present Township of Eaton.

*(Information came from the Pioneer History of Eaton County, by Daniel Strange, and from Michigan Pioneer & Historic Collection – These books are available in the Eaton County Genealogical Library)*



### NEW IN THE GENEALOGY ROOM

For the past several years the Society has been accepting donations in the hopes of purchasing a new printer reader. That has finally come to fruition. In late summer a unanimous donor came forth to donate the balance needed to purchase it. A Canon Microfilm Scanner 350 II was purchased and is up and running. Along with the scanner, we also had a new Dell computer donated and a new HP Printer was purchased. If you come into the room to use this new equipment, you can pull up the info you want from the microfilm or microfiche on the scanner, transfer it to the computer and print your copy on the printer or copy it to your flash drive. Wow! Most of the people who volunteer in the room know how to work the equipment.

We also have a brand new copy machine that will make good copies. Come on in and give our new machines a try.



### RESEARCH FINDS

You never know what you may find when doing genealogy research. I have been working on one line of my husband's. Since I have been doing search for 32 years I thought I had seen everything, until now.

I was working on John Humpfry and family. John married Elizabeth Pelham 3 September 1621 in England. They had: John, bpt. 11 August 1622; Elizabeth, bpt. 23 November 1623; Ann, bpt. 17 December 1625. All were baptized Fordingham, Co. Dorset, England. John's wife passed away between 1625 and 1630.

John then married Susan Fiennes about 1630. They had Dorcas, born ca. 1632; Sarah, born ca. 1634. Both born in England. Theophilus, bpt. 24 November 1636; Thomas, bpt. 26 June 1638; Joseph bpt. 5 February 1640; Lydia, bpt. 25 February 1641. All baptized in Salem, MA.

When searching for information on John and his family, I kept finding references to "the sad fate of his little daughters" or "the sad misfortunes of his daughters." I

began wondering what had happened to the daughters. Finally I found a reference as to where to look for the information. I found the book, turned to the page and started reading. I could not believe what I was reading. When John and Susan returned to England, the two daughters did not return with them. Why? I have not found out. The girls could have been left with an older half-sister. But were left in the care of Jenken Davies/Davis and his family. John had befriended and employed Jenken, so maybe John felt that the girls would be safe with his family.

Then I began to wonder what happened to Dorcas and Sarah. It didn't take long to find Dorcas. Each time I picked up a book, I would check the index for names I was working on, but I would, also, look for Dorcas and Sarah. I found Dorcas in a book titled "Winthrop Papers, volume IV, 1638-1644." Checked in the index and found Dorcas and John listed. As of this writing, I have not found Sarah.

References: History of Lynn, Essex County, MA. 1629-1864  
Humphreys Family in America  
English Origins of New England Families  
Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay  
In New England, volume II  
Winthrop Papers, volume IV 1638-1644

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517-543-8792

# WINTHROP *PAPERS*

VOLUME IV  
1638-1644



THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1944

THOMAS COBBETT TO JOHN WINTHROP<sup>1</sup>

*To our honoured Gouvernor and his much esteemd freind Mr. Winthrop  
at his howse in Boston present theise I pray you*

WORTHY SIR, I vnderstand that you are by Mr. Humphrey desired to take care of the dispose of his children<sup>2</sup> wherefore I thought meet to acquaint you with a prouidence of God offering an opportunity for the comfortabl disposal of one of them. mr. Daulton of Hampton staying at one of our Brethrens howses lately Inquired after mr. Humphreys children offering to take one of them and to bring it vp as his owne hauing of his owne but one child. his

<sup>1</sup> W. 4. 120; 5 *Collections*, 1. 333-335.

<sup>2</sup> John Humphrey had returned to England in 1641. For the subsequent misfortunes of his daughters, see *Journal*, II. 83.

Reason he gaue hereof was in that mr. Humphrey had formerly aduentured him self for him in england when in the High Commission Court and was a means of his liberty and therefore he would gladly thus requite that his kindness, and beeing told hear was none in this towne but Dorcas formerly defiled etc. he replied that was indeed some Blott vpon her but yet he would be content to take her if mr. Humphreis freinds soe pleased. now Sir if you please and that you Judge it meet we shall take some care to send to Mr. Dalton that thear may be further order taken for the conueyance of her to him to Hampton. mr. Otley is poore, and he cannot helpe her. mr. Walton is for Long Iland shortly there to sitt downe with my Lady Moody from vnder ciuill and church watch among the Dutch and albeit Dorcas be with him at present yet I suppose you will not assent to his carrying of her with him thither if he should desire it and with whome else the child should comfortably be I knowe not vnless some such like prouidence as this is be attended to and Improoued. your worship may please to expresse your minde herein to some of our Brethren that will be at Boston lecture and by them I shall vnderstand your pleasure, and accordingly act in it: beeing willing to doe any freindly office that way out of old resp[ec]ts vnto her Father and Mother. and thus with remembrance of all due respects to yourself and Mrs. Winthrop your wife, commending you and yours to the shadow of the wings of the Almighty I rest Yours to command in him

THO: COBBETT

LYN this 13th of the 1 m. 1643[/44]

if your worship please, your self may write to mr. Daulton and it will much aduantage and further the worke propounded.



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EDITED BY  
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BOSTON:  
FROM THE PRESS OF WILLIAM WHITE,  
PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH.  
1853.

[\*9.] In the case between Rich<sup>d</sup> Sherman & Capt Keayne, this was p<sup>p</sup>ounded to vote: Whether the defend<sup>t</sup> bee found to \*have bene posses<sup>t</sup> of the plain-  
tiff's sowe, & converted her to his owne use, or not: it was voted by 2  
mag<sup>ts</sup> & 15 deputies for the plantiffe, & by 7 mag<sup>ts</sup> & 8 deputies for the  
defend<sup>t</sup>, & 7 deputies were newters/

Daniell Fairefeild, being a married pson, upon his owne confession, &  
other sufficient prooffe, is found by the iudgm<sup>t</sup> of this Cort to have had carnall  
knowledg of, & so, in a most vile & abominable manner, to have abused the  
tender body of Dorcas, the daughter of John Humfrey, Esq<sup>r</sup>, one of y<sup>e</sup> then  
mag<sup>ts</sup> of this com<sup>on</sup> wealth, & that from time to time, from about her age  
of 7 yeares to about her age of 9 yeares, & y<sup>e</sup> hee did also, in a most  
uncleane & wicked manner, abuse himselfe upon y<sup>e</sup> body of Sara Humfry, a  
younger sister of the said Dorcas, & that this wickednes was comitted very  
often, & most usually by him on the Lords dayes & lecture dayes/

1642.

11 June.

The Cort therefore agreed that this aforementioned Dan: Fairefeild shalbee  
severely whiped at Boston the next lecture day, & have one of his nostrills  
slit so high as may well bee, & then to bee seared. & kept in prison, till hee bee  
fit to bee sent to Salem, & then to bee whiped againe, & have the other nostrill  
slit & seared; then further hee is confined to Boston neck, so as if hee bee  
found at any time during his life to go out of Boston neck, that is, beyond the  
railes toward Roxberry, or beyond the low water marke, hee shalbee put to death  
upon due conviction thereof: and hee is also to weare an hempen roape about  
his neck, the end of it hanging out two foote at least, & so often as hee shalbee  
found abroad w<sup>thout</sup> it, hee shalbee whiped: & if hee shall at any time hereafter  
attempt to abuse any pson as formerly, hee shall bee put to death, upon due  
conviction; & hee is to pay to M<sup>r</sup> Humfrey forty pounds/

Jenken Davies, for his abuseing the forenamed Dorcas, was ordered to bee  
severely whiped at Boston on a lecture day, & shalbee returned to prison till  
hee may bee sent to Linne, & there to bee severely whiped also, & from  
thenceforth shalbee confined to the said towne of Linne, so as if hee shall at  
any time go fourth of the bounds of the said towne, (w<sup>thout</sup> licence of this  
Cort,) & shalbee duely convict therof, hee shalbee put to death; & also hee shall  
weare an hempen roape apparently about his neck during the pleasure of this  
Cort, so as if hee bee found to have gone abroad at any time w<sup>thout</sup> it, hee  
shalbee againe whiped; & futh<sup>r</sup>, if hee shalbee duely convicted to have  
attempted any such wickednes (for w<sup>h</sup> hee is now sentenced) upon any child  
after this p<sup>sent</sup> day, hee shalbee put to death; & hee is to pay forty pounds  
to M<sup>r</sup> Humfrey for abuseing his daughter/

John Hudson, for abuseing the said Dorcas, was ordered to bee severely  
whiped at Boston the next lecture day, and shalbee returned to prison till  
hee may bee sent to Salem, & there to bee severely whiped againe; & hee shall  
pay unto M<sup>r</sup> \*Humfrey for abuseing his daughter twenty pounds w<sup>thin</sup> these  
two yeares/

[\*10.]

Dorcas Humfrey was ordered to bee privately severely corrected by this  
Cort, M<sup>r</sup> Bellingham & Increase Nowell to see it done/

# **INDEX** **EATON COUNTY QUEST** **ISSUE #61**

|                  |                     |            |                     |                         |                |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| (Humpfey)        | Dorcas              | 31         | Bowman              | Alexander               | 10             |
| (Humpfey)        | Dorcas              | 29         | Bowman              |                         | 10             |
| ?                | Edna                | 21         | Boyer               | L. H.                   | 23             |
| ?                | Fay                 | 21         | Brookfield          | Road                    | 15             |
| ?                | Gertie              | 21         | Brookfield          |                         | 7, 9           |
| ?                | Harry, Master       | 21         | Canada              |                         | 11             |
| ?                | Lena                | 21         | Cannon              | Ball                    | 12             |
| ?                | Lil                 | 21         | Carmel              |                         | 6              |
| ?                | Lillian             | 21         | Carson              | Gertrude                | 20             |
| ?                | Minda               | 21         | Carson              | Lillian                 | 20             |
| ?                | Redia               | 21         | Carson              | Roy                     | 20             |
| Adams            | Jackie              | 19         | Cattaraugus County, | New York                | 22             |
| Adrian           |                     | 22         | Center Eaton        | United Methodist Church | 15             |
| Albion           |                     | 21         | Century Mutual      | Building                | 12             |
| Alden, Erie Co., | New York            | 5          | Charlotte           | High School             | 12, 14         |
| Allen            | Geo.                | 25         | Charlotte           | Argus                   | 10             |
| Allen            | Gladys              | 19         | Charlotte           | Grange                  | 14             |
| Allen            | Harry, Master       | 25         | Charlotte           | Post Office             | 7, 8, 9        |
| Allen            | Sidney              | 25         | Charlotte           | Tribune                 | 11             |
| Allen Co.        | Library             | 19         | Charlotte           |                         | 5, 7, 8, 9, 11 |
| American         | Hotel               | 7          | Charlotte           |                         | 12, 13, 14,    |
| Ammon            | David               | 19         | Charlotte           |                         | 15             |
| Antique          | Automobile          | 12         | Charlotte,          | MI                      | 20             |
| Arnold           | Edward              | 24         | Charlotte,          | Michigan                | 27             |
| Arnold           | Mr.                 | 23         | Chester             | Township                | 20             |
| Arnold           | Samuel              | 23         | Chester             |                         | 11, 22, 23     |
| Aulls            | S.                  | 24         | Chester Township,   | Eaton County, Michigan  | 9, 10, 22      |
| Austin           | Linda               | 19         | Childs              | John                    | 13             |
| Aves             | Mary Ellen          | 20         | Childs              | Jonas                   | 25             |
| Aves             | Mary Ellen & LaVern | 19         | Church              | Irene                   | 25             |
| Babcock          | Elizabeth           | 25         | City of             | Charlotte               | 19             |
| Baird            | Abraham H.          | 10         | Clafin              | Benijah                 | 24, 25         |
| Baker            | A. L.               | 25         | Clark               | Calvin, Esq.            | 25             |
| Baker            | Mary Jean           | 19, 22, 24 | Clark               | Henry                   | 7              |
| Ballard          | Larry               | 19         | Clarke              | Dorothy                 | 23             |
| Bath, Steuben    | County, N.Y.        | 22         | Cobbett             | Tho:                    | 19             |
| Beaman           | Genealogy           | 18         | Cobbett             | Thomas                  | 29             |
| Beckman          | Benjamin            | 22         | Cole                | Lemuele                 | 29             |
| Beekman          | Calvin              | 22         | Combs               | Patricia                | 23             |
| Beekman          | Martin              | 22         | Commissions of      | Notary Public           | 19             |
| Beekman          | William             | 22         | Converse            | Harriet                 | 10             |
| Beiswanger       | Gottlieb, Mr.       | 9          | Cook                | Henry                   | 19             |
| Bell             | A man               | 22         | Cooley              | Zora Della              | 22             |
| Bell             |                     | 22         | Courthouse          | Square Assoc.           | 14             |
| Bellevue         |                     | 25         | Crampton            | Juanita                 | 17             |
| Bellingham       | Mr.                 | 31         | Cranson             | Otis V.                 | 19             |
| Billingsley      | Anita               | 19         | Crozier             | Descendant of Charles   | 25             |
| Blue Mounds,     | Wisc.               | 9          | Dalton              | Mr.                     | 18             |
| Boston           |                     | 31         | Dane                | Ruth                    | 29             |
| Bouton           | Aaron               | 22, 23     | Daulton             | Mr.                     | 19             |
| Bouton           | Israel              | 22         | Davies              | Jenken                  | 29             |
| Bouton           | Jared               | 22, 23     |                     |                         | 31             |

# **INDEX** **EATON COUNTY QUEST** **ISSUE #61**

|                 |                            |                |                   |                       |                |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Davies/Davis    | Jenken                     | 27             | East School       | House                 | 6              |
| Davis           | Stephen                    | 25             | Eaton             | County                | 10, 14, 22, 25 |
| Davis           | Willard                    | 22             | Eaton             | Township              | 13, 25         |
| Dean            | Beverly                    | 20             | Eaton County      | Agricultural Fair     | 9              |
| Dean            | D. S., Rev.                | 9              | Eaton County      | Board of Supervisors  | 9, 10          |
| Denver          |                            | 24             | Eaton County      | Circuit Court         | 6, 8           |
| Detroit         |                            | 7              | Eaton County      | Genealogical Society  | 1, 27          |
| Dickinson       | Carrie (King)              | 14             | Eaton County      | Register's Office     | 5              |
| Dickinson       | Daniel                     | 13, 14, 17     | Eaton County      | Republican            | 5, 6           |
| Dickinson       | Emma Deone                 | 13             | Eaton County      | Republican            | 7              |
| Dickinson       | Ethel                      | 14             | Eaton Methodist   | Episcopal Church      | 15             |
| Dickinson       | Frank                      | 17             | Eaton Rapids'     | Saw Mills             | 10             |
| Dickinson       | Hannah (Leavens)           | 13             | Eddy              | Debra                 | 19             |
| Dickinson       | Hannah Elizabeth (Leavens) | 13             | Eddy              | Debra Stadel          | 13             |
| Dickinson       | House                      | 16             | Ells & Shockey    | Genealogy             | 18             |
| Dickinson       | Luren                      | 13, 15, 16, 17 | Emmet,            | Calhoun County        | 22             |
| Dickinson       | Luren D.                   | 17             | Engel             | Edith                 | 19             |
| Dickinson       | Luren Dudley (L. D.)       | 13             | England           |                       | 26, 27         |
| Dickinson       | Marvin                     | 13             | Fairefeild        | Dan                   | 31             |
| Dickinson       | Marvin                     | 14             | Fairefeild        | Daniell               | 31             |
| Dickinsons      |                            | 13             | Fiennes           | Susan                 | 26             |
| Dist. Judicial  | Convention                 | 7              | Fifty Years Ago   | This Week             | 3              |
| Dolson          | Automobile Agency          | 12             | First             | National Bank         | 12             |
| Dolson          | Automobile Company         | 12             | First National    | Bank of Charlotte     | 14             |
| Dolson          | Car Company                | 13             | Fisher            | Catherine E., Miss    | 8              |
| Dolson          | D. E. (Tom)                | 11             | Fitzgerald        | Frank D., Gov.        | 15             |
| Dolson          | D. Elmore                  | 12             | Fitzgerald        | Myrtle                | 19             |
| Dolson          | David                      | 11             | Fordingham.       | co. Dorset, England   | 26             |
| Dolson          | David Elmore               | 11             | Fractional School | District #1           | 6              |
| Dolson          | Don                        | 11             | Francis           | Janet                 | 19             |
| Dolson          | Don Sherman                | 11             | Fremont           |                       | 8              |
| Dolson          | Donald                     | 11             | Fremont.          | Ohio                  | 8              |
| Dolson          | Gerald                     | 11             | Frink             | N. P.                 | 25             |
| Dolson          | J. Lewis, Dr.              | 11             | Frink             | Nathan P.             | 25             |
| Dolson          | John                       | 11             | Fritzler          | Susannah              | 19             |
| Dolson          | John L.                    | 11             | Fuller            | Asa                   | 23             |
| Dolson          | Leita                      | 11             | Fuller            | Asa and Wife          | 22             |
| Dolson          | Model C                    | 12             | Garden City,      | Minn.                 | 9              |
| Dolson          | Mr.                        | 11             | Gates             | Geo. W.               | 7              |
| Dolson          | W. Elton                   | 12             | Geddie            | Violet                | 19             |
| Dolson          | William Elton              | 11             | Geyer             | Patricia              | 19             |
| Dolson Carriage | Company, The               | 11             | Gibbons-Warren    | Irene                 | 19             |
| Dolson, John L. | & Sons Company             | 12             | Glasgow           | Joan Whitworth        | 20             |
| Dolsons         |                            | 11             | Global            | Gazette               | 2              |
| Dow             | John                       | 23             | Goodnoe, Kingman  | & McClintok Genealogy | 18             |
| Dowling,        | Michigan                   | 20             | Goostry           | Betty                 | 19             |
| Dreifenbacker   | Christina, Miss            | 9              | Graham            | Sherry                | 18             |
| Dunlap          | Levi                       | 10             | Grand Ledge       | Library               | 19             |
| Duplex Power    | Car Company                | 12             | Grand Ledge       |                       | 7, 10          |
| Duplex Power    | Trucks                     | 12             | Grant             | Annaliza              | 9              |
| Duplex Truck    | Company                    | 14             | Haley             | Gaynell & Louis       | 19             |

# INDEX EATON COUNTY QUEST ISSUE #61

|               |                    |        |               |                |        |
|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Haley         | Louis & Gaynell    | 19     | Kinne         | Amos           | 25     |
| Halsey        | Drouscella         | 2, 19  | Kinne         | Stephen        | 24     |
| Halsey        | Stanley            | 2      | Kiplinger     | & Weaver       | 18     |
| Hamlin        | Samuel             | 25     | Kiplinger     | Genealogy      | 18     |
| Hamlin        |                    | 29     | Kiplinger     | Robert C.      | 18     |
| Hampton       | Rufus              | 6      | Klaiss        | Leila          | 11     |
| Haner         | Simeon             | 5      | Klaiss        | Leila          | 19     |
| Harding       | Simeon             | 23     | Koos          | Pat            | 19     |
| Harrisburg,   | Pa.                | 2      | Ladies Banner | Association    | 6      |
| Hatch         | H. H., Lieut.      | 7      | Lake          | Chas., Mr.     | 6      |
| Haun          | Barbara J.         | 19     | Lake Odessa   | School Buses   | 13     |
| Hendrickson   | Harriette          | 19     | Lang          | H., Rev.       | 8      |
| Highfill      | Ruth               | 19     | Lansing       |                | 14, 24 |
| Hodges        | Clarence           | 20     | Lawrence      | T.             | 24     |
| Hodges        | Clarence & Shirley | 19     | Leavens       | Samuel B.      | 13, 17 |
| Hodges        | Shirley            | 19     | Leavens       | Samuel Bowen   | 17     |
| Hodges        | Shirley Gage       | 2      | Lembeck       | Florence       | 19     |
| Hofrezer      | Virgil             | 18     | Linne         |                | 31     |
| Holbrook      | Jack               | 18     | Loomis        | John D.        | 6      |
| Hudson        | John               | 31     | Loveland      | Dale           | 10     |
| Hull          | Stephen, Rev.      | 8      | Loveland      | Donald         | 10     |
| Humfrey       | Dorcas             | 31     | Loveland      | Eugene         | 10     |
| Humfrey       | John               | 29     | Loveland      | Frances        | 10     |
| Humfrey       | John, Esq.         | 31     | Loveland      | Frank          | 10     |
| Humfrey       | Mr.                | 31     | Loveland      | Leon D.        | 10     |
| Humfrey       | Sara               | 31     | Loveland      | Leon, Mrs.     | 10     |
| Humfry        | John and Family    | 26     | Loveland      | Lois           | 10     |
| Humpfry       | Ann                | 26     | Loveland      | Theda Dorean   | 10     |
| Humpfry       | Dorcas             | 26, 27 | Lovett        | Street         | 12     |
| Humpfry       | Elizabeth          | 26     | Lyon          | R. W.          | 5      |
| Humpfry       | John               | 26, 27 | Maple Hill    | Cemetery       | 15     |
| Humpfry       | Joseph             | 26     | Martin        | Harriet A.     | 6      |
| Humpfry       | Lydia              | 26     | Martin        | Samuel         | 6      |
| Humpfry       | Mr.                | 29     | Mashon        | Corrie         | 21     |
| Humpfry       | Sarah              | 26, 27 | Massachusetts |                | 13     |
| Humpfry       | Theophilus         | 26     | Maxson        | Roswell R.     | 22     |
| Humpfry       | Thomas E.          | 26     | McCarthy      | Rosemary       | 19     |
| Humphreis     | Mr.                | 29     | Mead          | William        | 11     |
| Humphrey      | Mr.                | 29     | Merchants     | National Bank  | 12     |
| Humphrey      |                    | 29     | Mick          | Sandra         | 19     |
| Hunnewill     | E.                 | 9      | Miller        | Louisa A.      | 9      |
| Huntington,   | Ohio               | 20     | Mitchell      | Asa W.         | 22     |
| Indiana       |                    | 11     | Monroe        | County         | 25     |
| Jones         | Dorothy            | 19     | Moody         | Lady           | 29     |
| Jordan        | Amasa L.           | 22     | Mott          | Sheila         | 19     |
| Jourdan       | Nancy              | 19     | Mott          | Sheila (Clark) | 27     |
| Kalamazoo     |                    | 21     | Moyer         | Henry A.       | 23     |
| Keandalville, | Indiana            | 11     | Mulliken      | Cemetery       | 11     |
| Keayne        | Capt.              | 31     | Mulliken      |                | 10, 11 |
| Kern          | Julaine            | 19     | Myers         | Grandma        | 13     |
| Killeen       | Carolyn            | 19     | New York      |                | 25     |
| Kinne         | Amos               | 24     | New York City |                | 12     |



# INDEX EATON COUNTY QUEST ISSUE #61

|                  |                       |             |               |                           |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Niagara County,  | New York              | 13          | Roxand        | 23                        |
| No. 2            | Eaton                 | 6           | Roxberry      | 31                        |
| North            | Cochrane              | 12          | Rulison       | Genealogy 18              |
| Nowell           | Increase              | 31          | Russell       | Catherine 8               |
| Nyman            | Philetus              | 6           | Salem         | 31                        |
| Ontario County,  | N.Y.                  | 23          | San Francisco | Earthquake 12             |
| Opdyke           | Penny                 | 19          | San Francisco | 12                        |
| Ottley           | Mr.                   | 29          | Sanford       | L. H. 24                  |
| Owatonna,        | Minn.                 | 9           | Searles       | J. 24                     |
| Parker           | Jeannine              | 19          | Searles       | Jonathan 24               |
| Patterson        | Della                 | 14          | Searles       | Jonathan, Uncle 25        |
| Patterson        | Don                   | 14          | Searles       | Julia 25                  |
| Patterson        | La Vern               | 14          | Searles       | Mr. 24                    |
| Patterson        | Robert                | 14          | Searles       | Mrs. 25                   |
| Pearl            | Street                | 12          | Searles       | Phoebe K. 24              |
| Pelham           | Elizabeth             | 26          | Searles       | Ruth, Mrs. 24             |
| Pence & Shance   | Genealogy             | 18          | Searles       | S. 24                     |
| Perkey           | Nora                  | 11          | Searles       | Sally, Aunt 25            |
| Pixley           | James                 | 25          | Searles       | Samuel 24, 25             |
| Pixley           | James F.              | 24          | Searls        | Street 25                 |
| Pixley           | Jeannine              | 19          | Sedore        | Jan 10                    |
| Pixley           | Mrs.                  | 24          | Sherman       | Rich'd 31                 |
| Pleasant         |                       | 11          | Sidnam        | R. Jean 19                |
| Polhamus         | Adrianna              | 20          | Simons        | Arthur, Mrs. 10           |
| Polhamus         | Anna                  | 20          | Simpson       | Krys 17, 18               |
| Polhamus         | Betty                 | 19          | Simpson       | Krystal 19                |
| Polhamus         | Betty                 | 20          | Smith         | Barb & Steve 19           |
| Polhamus         | Daniel                | 20          | Smith         | Barbara 19                |
| Polhamus         | Johannes Theodorus    | 20          | Smith         | E. O., Esq. 6             |
| Polhamus         | Susan                 | 19          | Smith         | Jill 19                   |
| Polhamus         | Susan                 | 20          | Smith         | L. O. 7                   |
| Polhamus         | Theodorus             | 20          | Smith         | T. R. 24                  |
| Potter           | Thomas E.             | 17          | Southworth    | Families 25               |
| Pottersville     | High School           | 14          | Southworth    | George 25                 |
| Prairie          | St.                   | 11          | Southworth    | James 25                  |
| Premier Roadster | of America            | 12          | Southworth    | Marjorie & Neil 19        |
| Preston          | Carson                | 20, 21      | Southworth    | William 25                |
| Preston          | Grandma               | 21          | Spencer       | John C. 6                 |
| Preston          | Mira                  | 20          | Stewart       | C. E. 24                  |
| Radee            | Valerie               | 19          | Sweeney       | Nancy 19                  |
| Ranville         | Laura                 | 19          | Teachout      | 19                        |
| Ray              | John H.               | 5           | Times Square  | Auto Company 12           |
| Records of       | Massachusetts Bay     | 30          | Titus         | Elvira, Miss 8            |
| Republican       | Senatorial Convention | 7           | Tooker        | Randal 19                 |
| Republican       | The                   | 7, 8, 9, 10 | Town of       | Eaton County, Michigan 25 |
| Rich             | Benjamin E.           | 22, 23      | Township      | of Eaton 24, 26           |
| Rich             | John A.               | 23          | Tunison       | Wm. 23                    |
| Ripon,           | Wisc.                 | 9           | Twitchell     | Helen 19                  |
| River            | Raisin                | 22          | United        | States 15                 |
| Robinson         | Henry, Rev.           | 9           | VanDyke       | Henry 19                  |
| Rohlf's          | Bill                  | 12          | VanWagoner    | Murray D. 15              |
| Rowland          | Orrin                 | 23          | Vermontville  | Eaton County, Michigan 10 |

# **INDEX** **EATON COUNTY QUEST** **ISSUE #61**

|               |                |          |           |                  |            |
|---------------|----------------|----------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Vermontville  |                | 6, 7, 22 | Williams  | Harvey           | 5          |
| Wall          | Mr.            | 24       | Williams  | Harvey           | 7, 9, 23   |
| Wall          | Mrs.           | 24       | Williams  | Isaac            | 22         |
| Wall          | William        | 24       | Williams  | Jefferson        | 7, 8       |
| Wallace       | Beverly        | 19       | Williams  | John             | 9, 22      |
| Walton        | Mr.            | 29       | Williams  | John S.          | 6          |
| Washington    |                | 13       | Williams  | Mary F., Miss    | 5          |
| Washtenaw     | County         | 22       | Williams  | Mary L., Miss    | 6          |
| Weaver        | Abraham        | 18       | Williams  | Milo             | 7          |
| Wells         | R. J.          | 24       | Williams  | Morris B.        | 7          |
| Wheaton       | Corners        | 22       | Williams  | Morris B.        | 9          |
| Wheaton       | Families       | 22       | Williams  | P.               | 10         |
| Wheaton       | Levi           | 22       | Williams  | Peter            | 5, 7       |
| Wheaton       | Levi           | 23       | Williams  | Peter            | 9, 10      |
| Wheaton       | M. A.          | 22       | Williams  | Sarah E.         | 6          |
| Wheaton       | Mr.            | 22       | Williams  | Sylvia           | 10         |
| Wheaton       | R. Duane       | 22       | Williams  | Thomas           | 6          |
| Wheaton       | Robert M.      | 23       | Williams  | Thos. W. B.      | 7          |
| Wheaton       | Robert M.      | 22       | Williams  | W. B.            | 8          |
| Wheaton       | Robert M., Mr. | 22       | Williams  | W. B. and Wife   | 8          |
| Wheaton       | Samuel         | 22       | Williams  | Wolcott B.       | 6          |
| Wheaton       | Settlement     | 22       | Williams  | Zella Katherine  | 10         |
| Wheaton       | Zeb            | 23       | Wilson    | Grandma          | 13         |
| Wheaton       | Zebulon T.     | 22       | Wilson    | Mattie (Leavens) | 13         |
| Wheeler       | Fern. Rev.     | 11       | Winsor    | Amanda           | 7          |
| Whitcomb      | E., Rev.       | 9        | Winthrop  | John             | 29         |
| White         | Jean           | 19       | Winthrop  | Papers           | 27, 28, 29 |
| White Pigeon, | Mich.          | 22       | Wisconsin | Hist. Soc.       | 19         |
| Whitten       | Joyce H.       | 17       | Woodland  |                  | 13         |
| Whitworth     | Redia Fisher   | 20       | Wright    | Barbara          | 19         |
| Wilcox        | Wm. R.         | 10       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | A. R.          | 5        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | A. R.          | 10       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | A. R., Mrs.    | 6        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Albert         | 5        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Albert T., Mr. | 8        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Alva           | 5        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Ancil          | 6        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Ancil          | 8        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Brothers       | 22       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Daniel         | 5        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Daniel         | 9        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | David          | 6        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Egbert         | 5        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Egbert G.      | 10       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Egbert G.      | 9        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Egbert G., Mr. | 8        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Ellsworth      | 10       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Ema C.         | 8        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | Floyd          | 10       |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | George         | 9        |           |                  |            |
| Williams      | George W.      | 5        |           |                  |            |