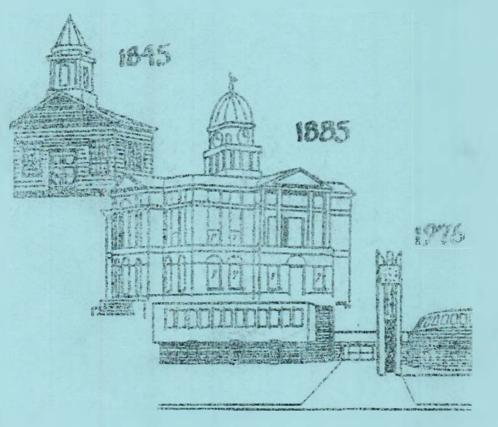
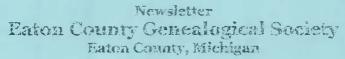


Eaton County Quest





Issue #65

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January - April 2009

185N 1075-881X

Eaton County Genealogical Society Quest

Issue #65

January - April, 2009

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Eaton County Genealogical Society

1885 Historical Courthouse 100 West Lawrence Avenue Charlotte Michigan 48813-0337

Phone: 517/543-8792 FAX: 517/543-6999 Email: ecgsoc@juno.com

2008 - 2009 Officers:

President	Marcy Cousino
Vice President	Jim Collins, Jo Glasgow
Treasurer	Stephen F Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila Mott
Membership Secretary	Barbara Smith
Recording Secretary	
Librarian	Sharlene Thuma
Historian	Betty L Goostrey
Publicity	Edward Dunning
Quest Editor	Vicki L Dukes
Webmaster	Sherry Copenhaver
Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate	Betty Polhamus
Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate	Clarence Hodges
Alternates	Jim Collins, Jo Glasgow
Federation of Genealogical Societies Delega	ate Shirley Hodges

Eaton County Genealogical Society Library Research Rooms <u>Location:</u> ground floor of the 1885 Historical Courthouse corner of Lawrence Avenue and Cochran Avenue in down town Charlotte, Michigan. Handicap accessible from back parking lot.

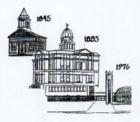
<u>Membership Meetings:</u> 7:00 pm 3^{ra} Wednesday of March thru October 2nd Wednesday of November No membership meetings: December, January and February.

Research Room Hours:

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Please call ahead if coming from a long distance to ensure the room is open.)

Visit Our Web Site: www.miegs.org

ECQ #65 Page 1



January 2009

Dear Eaton County Genealogical Society Members:

We, the Eaton County Genealogical Society (ECGS) Board, honestly were not sure how a "No Bake" bake sale fund-raiser might be received. We also had the problem that many of our usual local "shakers and movers" were not going to be in town for the annual Frontier Days Bake Sale. We considered canceling the effort. Luckily, we had a few more volunteers step up and other people baked like crazy and MANO; envelopes of money started pouring in!

I am very happy to report that both "Sales" were a HUGE success! The "No Bake" sale netted \$585 by the end of September and the conventional bake sale during Frontier Days made \$1,169.46. It is YOU who made this effort a success. Thanks to all who baked, volunteered their time during the sale, and/or gave a financial contribution. You make this organization work. Thank you!

Incidentally, access to the indexes of county records that ECGS members have been compiling for over 20 years has become extremely convenient with our new computer search system. That means real county level information on your Eaton County ancestors is easier than ever to obtain. Contact our library volunteers with your queries at: <u>http://www.miegs.org</u>

All the better to serve you,

Marcy Cousino ECGS President

Hello My Genealogical Friends!



September $17^{th} - 24^{th}$ was Constitution Week. 2008 marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Do you know your constitutional rights? How often do you repeat the Pledge of Allegiance? Thank goodness we can.

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

The American's Creed

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies."

Author: William Tyler Page

Preamble to the Constitution of the United State of America

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

When given a chance, thank a veteran for serving our country to protect our freedoms.



At Your Service

Look over your family tree to find ancestors, especially men, who were born during the following time periods, then check military draft, service or pension indexes for the corresponding conflicts. (These are general guidelines; men and women who served at a very young or old ages may fall outside these ranges.)

If the birth year is	Look for records of the
1726 - 1767	Revolutionary War (1775 – 1783)
1762 - 1799	War of 1812 (1812 – 1815)
1796 - 1831	Mexican War (1846 – 1848)
1822 - 1848	Civil War (1861 – 1865)
1848 - 1881	Spanish-American War (1898)
1849 - 1885	Philippine Insurrection (1899 – 1902)
1872 - 1900	World War I (1917 – 1918)
1877 - 1925	World War II (1941 – 1945)
1900 - 1936	Korean War (1950 – 1953)
1914 - 1955	Vietnam War (1964 – 1972)

Check out some of these web sites:

www.heritageguestonline.com

www.civilwardata.com

www.ancestry.com

www.spanamwar.com

www.loc.gov/vets

www.accessgenealogy.com/military/spanish/rough_riders.htm

www.dar.org

www.go.footnote.com/thewall

www.archives.gov/research/vietnam-war/casualty-lists/state-level-alpha.html

www.archives.gov/genealogy/military/civil-war/confederate/pension.html

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

Don't forget the 1890 census of the Union Veterans and Widows

At Your Service

NARA hasn't microfilmed most military service and pension files, but it'll make photocopies for a few. The voluminous, fragile collections can complicate the job of locating and photocopying files. Record fees rose in October 2007, to \$25 for service files predating Oct. 31, 1912. Civil War and later pensions jumped from \$37 to \$75 (for up to 100 pages, plus 65 cents for each additional page). A pre-Civil War pension file now costs \$50.

If the records you need aren't in online resources and you can't avoid fees by personally visiting NARA in Washington, DC, it may be cheaper to hire an onsite researcher – see <archives.gov/research/hire-help> for information. The author of the article paid an hourly researcher \$81.50 for copies of two Civil War service files and two Civil War pension files and received them in two weeks. The same copies would cost \$200 from NARA with a two to four month waiting period.

WWI and WWII service records were among those destroyed in a 1973 fire at NARA's National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Eighty percent of service files for Army personnel discharged between Nov 1, 1912 and Jan 1 1960 burned. Still, consider putting in a request. For privacy reasons, only limited information from these files is released to the general public. Veterans and their next of kin are eligible to get free copies of surviving military personnel record for World War I and later conflicts. See <a href="mailto: service-records/get-service-records.html> for instructions.

Resource: Family Tree Magazine, "Join the march to Search Out Military Records on the Web", Rick Crume, pg 49, November 2008.

Buried in Ontario?

We have transcribed 6,000 cemeteries containing 10,000,000 tombstones.

Explore the cemetery index online at

www.ogs.on.ca

EATON COUNTY DEATH RECORDS

Betty Goostrey abstracted the following information from the Eaton County Death Records, Volume 1. All vital records maybe obtain by writing to the County Clerk's office, Eaton County Courthouse, Independence Dr., Charlotte, MI 48813

Township of Hamlin

Page: 38 File Number: 721 Date of Death: 27 Mar 1871 Date Recorded: 24 May 1872 Name: Mary MERRILL Age: 51Y 5 mo 15 day Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: New York Residence: Hamlin Father: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 722 Date of Death: 13 July 1871 Date Recorded: 27 May 1872 Name: Pelluria LONG Age: 54Y Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Accident, thrown From carriage Birthplace: New York Father: Roswell MORGAN Mother: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 723 Date of Death: 25 Nov 1871 Date Recorded: 27 Mar 1872 Name: Cameron ARMSTRONG Age: 59y 10m 25d Sex: M Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Walton Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: New York Residence: Hamlin Occupation: Farmer Father: dead Mother: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 724 Date of Death: 27 June 1871 Date Recorded: 27 Mar 1872 Name: Juliett L HAMMOND Age: 56Y Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Married Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: New York Residence: Hamlin Father: dead Mother: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 725 Date of Death: 11 March 871 Date Recorded: 27 May 1872 Name: Emma June HATHAWAY Age: 37y 11m 27d Sex: F Marital Status: Widow Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: New York Residence: Hamlin Father: dead Mother: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 726 Date of Death: 1 March 1871 Date Recorded: 27 May 1872 Name: **R. Parker ABBEY** Age: 45y 20d Sex: M Marital Status: Married

EATON COUNTY DEATH RECORDS

Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: New York Residence: Hamlin Occupation: House Keeper Father: dead Mother: dead

Page: 39 File Number: 727 Date of Death: ___ Apr 1871 Date Recorded: 27 May 1872 Name: Elnora HEATTRICK Age: 1Y 11m Sex: F Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Inflamation of brain Birthplace: Aurilius Residence: Eaton Rapids Father: Benjamin H HEATTRICK Mother: Amy C HEATTRICK

Page: 39 File Number: 728 Date of Death: 17 Jan 1871 Date Recorded: 27 May 1872 Name: Olive TAYLOR Age: 72y 28d Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Hamlin Cause of Death: Consumption Birthplace: Vermont Residence: Hamlin Father: dead Mother: dead

Township of Kalamo

Page: 3 File Number: 729 Date of Death: 10 May 1871 Date Recorded: Name: **Benjamin WELLS** Age: 83Y Sex: M Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Kalamo Cause of Death: Dropsey Birthplace: New York Residence: Kalamo Father: Levi WELLS Mother: Polly WELLS

Page: 39 File Number: 730 Date of Death: 15 Feb 1871 Date Recorded: 30 May 1872 Name: Jennie WILSON Age: 11y Sex: F Place of Death: Kalamo Cause of Death: Scarlet Fever Birthplace: Michigan Residence: Kalamo Father: George WILSON Mother: Isabella WILSON

Page: 39 File Number: 732 Date of Death: 17 May 1871 Date Recorded: 30 May 1872 Name: Cynthia J. WILLIAMSEN Age: 30y 6m 17d Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Kalamo

EATON COUNTY DEATH RECORDS

Cause of Death: Consumption of lungs Birthplace: New York Residence: Kalamo Occupation: Farmers wife Father: Elias H COLE Mother: Cynthia COLE

Page: 39 File Number: 733 Date of Death: 1 Aug 1871 Date Recorded: 30 May 1872 Name: Ira BROOKS Age: 77 or 79 y 16 d Sex: M Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Kalamo Cause of Death: Dropsy Birthplace: Vermont Residence: Kalamo Occupation: Blacksmith Father: Peter BROOKS, NY Mother: Polly BROOKS, NY

Page: 39 File Number: 734 Date of Death: 1 June 1871 Date Recorded: 30 May 1872 Name: Amanda BROOKS Age: 75y 4m 6d Sex: F Marital Status: Married Place of Death: Kalamo Cause of Death: Kalamo Cause of Death: Consumption of lungs Birthplace: Vermont Father: Per? STEVENS Mother: Unknown

DNA Genealogy Where to Start By Richard Rubin Family Tree Magazine

What seems, on the surface, to be the coldest, most impersonal means of tracing your own lineage is anything but.

How do you choose a company that offers genetic genealogy services? The basic service is analyzing your DNA is pretty much the same everywhere. The difference lies in what extra features are offered. Here are a few of the betterknown players that were published in "Family Tree" magazine.

<u>Family Tree DNA</u> has the largest database of potential matches. Options include software that calculates how far back you and a particular match share a common ancestor. Go to: <u>www.familytreedna.com</u> Cost: \$129 and up.

Ancestry.com's database of potential matches is smaller, but its more conventional genealogical resources, such as online searches of vital records and other archival materials, are vast. Go to: www.dna.ancestry.com Cost range from \$149 and up.

National Geographic's Genographic <u>Project</u> seeks to trace the "genetic odyssey" of mankind. Volunteers learn their "haplogroup" whose common ancestor lived tens of thousands of years ago. No matching with anyone. Go to: <u>www.national</u> geographic.com/genographic Cost: \$100

If anyone has tried any of these or others, I would like to hear about your experiences or results. Please contact Vicki Dukes at:

historybuff62@gmail.com I am sure other ECGS members would be interested too.

The Charles BENNETT Furniture Company By Mary Jean Baker

The original house, once owned by Charles and George BENNETT, at 617 W. Seminary Street in Charlotte, is for sale. The house has recently been renovated to its original style.

Being brought to my attention, I decided to do some research on the BENNETT family.

Established in Charlotte in 1870, and in 1894 Charles BENNETT, then a junior partner in the firm of CURTIS & BENNETT, became the sole proprietor and conducted business under that of the Charles BENNETT Furniture Company.

BENNETT was a native of New York State and a Civil War veteran. He was captured and twice incarcerated in Libby prison during the war. He was a progressive and enterprising citizen.

He was a Republican and served as alderman and later mayor of Charlotte. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Grand Army of the Republic. (GAR).

Charles and Aaron BENNETT came to Charlotte in 1870, and became members of the firm of BENNETT Bros., CODER & HOUCK. They manufactured sash, blinds and doors.

Mr. BENNETT died November 27, 1903. His only son, George L. BENNETT, who was unmarried at that time and resided with his mother in the old home on W. Seminary, became the manager of the company. The furniture company had a main, three-story brick structure on the North side of W. Seminary, with a brick engine house adjoining. On the opposite side of the street was a two-story ironclad building. The two buildings were connected by an enclosed bridge, extending across the street from the second floors.

The furniture company employed up to fifty men and had a large and growing trade, especially in the middle western states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. They had a number of traveling salesmen and annual displays of their furniture at the Chicago furniture exposition.

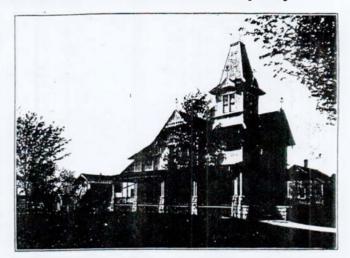
Charles BENNETT married Miss Mary E. MYERS on December 7, 1865 at Fremont, Ohio. She was the daughter of Henry and Nancy MYERS, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. & Mrs. BENNETT had two children, Alice N., who was born in Fremont, Ohio, and was married to George Foote of Charlotte. The son, George L. was born in Charlotte and had run the furniture company twelve years prior to his father's death.

The Charles Bennett Furniture Company

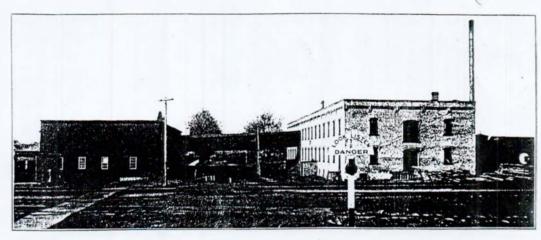
The Charles Bennett Furniture Co. dates from 1870, when Aaron and Charles Bennett came to Charlotte and became members of the firm of Bemett Brothers, Coder & Houck. They were engaged in the manufacture of sash. doors and blinds.

The firm changed later on to Curtis & Rennett, who engaged in the manufacture of tables. A new brick buildmg was erected at this time, the same heing located on the north side of West Seminary street. This building is 150 feet long by 50 feet wide and three stories high, with a brick engine and boiler room 40x60 adjoining.

In 1894 Charles Bennett, then junior member of the firm of Curtis & Bennett, purchased the interest of his partver and became sole proprietor of the business, which has suice been conducted under the name of the Charles Bennett Furniture Co.



Residence of Mrs. Charles Bennett.



Plant of Bennett Furniture Company.

storage and offices.

stitution, was a native of New York, her 27, 1903, since which time the man-output of this business, and the firm has and one of the men who entered largely agement of the institution has been in annual displays at the Grand Rapids into the affairs of the city and by his, the hands of his son. George L. Ben- furniture exhibition,

manufacture of bedroom furniture and her fame. He served his country val- manage every branch of this business. at once erected a new iron-clad building nantly during the civil war, and was sex (10 on the opposite side of the street.) twice confined in the notorious Libby Both the brick and iron-clad buildings prison. He served his city as alderare connected with a high covered man and mayor, and it was during his bridge. The brick building contains the administration that the city annexed the machinery and wood-working depart- beautiful forest park that bears his ments for their business, while the iron- name. He was a stockholder and viceclad building is used for finishing rooms, president of the First National Bank, the firm has a large trade principally in and a member of many fraternal or- the central and middle west States. Charles Bennett, founder of the in- ganizations. Mr. Bennett died Novem- Five salesmen are employed to sell the

Mr. Bennett then commenced the industry and integrity helped to spread nett, who is thoroughly competent to

The firm manufactures chamber suites, dressers and commodes, sideboards and wardrobes, the same being constructed. in plain and quartered oak, ash and birch.

About fifty men are employed, and

The Charles BENNETT Furniture Company

By Mary Jean Baker

Eaton County Death Record Vol. 3, page 175 Charles BENNETT died Nov. 21, 1903, male, white, married. Age: 66y, 1m, 10d Residence of Charlotte. Died of Asthemic heart failure, septic infection from carbuncle. Occupation: Manufacturer. Parents: Benj. BENNETT (born N.Y) and LACEY.

Resource: Information extracted from the Past & Present of Eaton County & from Charlotte The Beautiful by Mary Jean Baker.

Who Has Lived In The Old Charles BENNETT Home? by Mary Jean Baker

- 617 W. Seminary Street Renovated Home For Sale
- 1872 1873 Charles BENNETT Mill Business
- 1908 1909 George BENNETT
- 1915 1916 George BENNETT

1938 - Harold L. KEENEY & Mrs. Lillie HUBERT

1957 – C.D. PRATT, Janet EATON, Ray GARNER

1962-1964 - Clinton D. PRATT - 617 1/2 Vacant

1972 - Clinton D. PRATT - 617 1/2 Sharon Mireles, renter

1973 - Clinton D. PRATT & Mrs. Mabelle N. PRATT

1976 - Clinton D. PRATT - 617 1/2, Charlene FIELD

- 1978 Mabelle N. PRATT, retired, Joseph HARMON, age 61
- 1981 Robt. C. DANE, Terry DANE, Kim DANE, Clinton PRATT 617 ¹/₂ Apt. 2 information refused – Joe HARMON
- 1983 Clinton PRATT, 617 ½ apt. 2, information refused. (Robt. C. DANE now at 621 Seminary)
- 1988 Gary MIDDAUGH, DDS, whole house

The Charles BENNETT Furniture Company

By Mary Jean Baker

1994 - Gary L. & Lynn M. MIDDAUGH

2004 - 2008 - Gary MIDDAUGH now at 611 W. Seminary. 617 W. Seminary no longer in the phone book.

Resource: Mary Jean Baker abstracted from Charlotte city directories located in the ECGS research room.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. CHARLES BENNETT

base all games in central Michigan. It is also having an athletic field and park as beautiful used for sollege field days, football games, in as Bennett Park is fortunate indeed.

of all kinds. Here are seen some of the best fact, all forms of athletic sports. Any city

Queries from Membership

Phyllis Whidden is asking for help:

Can someone help me identify these people? We think they are Adams & Darling. If you recognize anyone in these pictures, contact Phyllis Whidden at 517/694-0205 or email the ECGS research room. Thank you.



These both were taken by Randall Studio in Eaton Rapids, MI

This picture was taken by Oberlin Studio in Elsie, MI

Queries from Membership



Nancy Clouse is asking:

Another query came in from Nancy Clouse. She is a new member to ECGS and she is looking for any information on prostitution activities or brothels located in Grand Ledge between the years of 1910 to 1930. She is interested in any newspaper articles, building locations in city directories, or local sheriff accounts of activity and personal information. If you can help with any information, contact our research room by phone or email.

1890 GAR Post 40 Charlotte, Michigan

Mary Jean Baker looked up the first three members listed in Quest #64 of the GAR Members and here are some family histories she found on each.

Geo. T. Vickers – Book D-70 Justice's Docket, page 236 Eaton County Gardner T. Rand - Plaintiff VS

George Vickers – Defendant Summons issued Nov. 19, 1877 Claims damage, One Hundred Dollars Court Costs \$13.00 Damages 30

Damages	.30
Plainiff's Cost	2.00
Taxed	.75

May 17, 1878 issued – returned unsatisfied.

Book B50 – <u>Registrar of Deeds</u> Page 613 **George T. Vickers**, et-al To **R. Gilbert**

17th July 1883 – 3 o'clock p.m. G. Homer Jones, Register of Deeds

Between George Vickers, Mary E. Vickers, his wife and Lueretia M. Vickers, of Charlotte, Michigan of the first part, and R. Gilbert of Carmel, Eaton County, Michigan of the second part.

Land was sold for Three Hundred and Fifty dollars.

Lot #24 of Jones addition to the village (now city) of Charlotte, Eaton Co., except two (2) rods on the west end thereof (said parties of the first are to keep the property insured at all times for at least the full amount of the mortgage and interest for the benefit of the mortgagee) to be paid three years from the date hereof with interest at the rate of seven per cent per annum interest payable annually all payable at Charlotte, Michigan according to a promissory note executed by George Vickers. John D. Parkhurst, notary public Written in the margins -I R. Gilbert do hereby certify that the mortgage recorded here on is paid in full and hereby discharged, September 9, 1884. George Vickers was 48 when he died. He was a carpenter in Charlotte. I couldn't find a death record for him.

Next GAR member was Adam Carter

In book H-60, page 518 is Adam's daughter's death certificate. Her name **Jessie Mae Johnson**.

Eaton County Pioneer Records:

Vol. 1, page 191

Carter – died at her home in this city on Saturday, June 16, 1894 of heart disease, **Mrs. Jane Carter**, widow of the late **Adam Carter**, aged 50y, 11m, 21 days.

Mrs. Carter was a native of Ohio and came with her husband to Charlotte upwards of twenty-five years ago. She was greatly beloved

1890 GAR Post 40 Charlotte, Michigan

by all. The funeral was held from the residence Monday at 5pm.

Eaton County Death Records

Vol. 2, page 374 Adam J. Carter, male, white, married, age 58y, 6m, 10d of Charlotte died of consumption. Born: PA. Carpenter. Parents were William Carter & Ruth Carter of Mansfield, Ohio.

Burkhead Funeral Home

Adam Carter (funeral ordered by John Childs) Charlotte. Died 01 Jul 1890m male. Buried Maple Hill Cemetery

Maple Hill Cemetery Records

Sec. F, lot 32 – **Carter, Adam** 00/000/0000 – 01/Jul/1890 PVT. Co. 102d. O.V.I. (GAR) Corp L, Co. C 3rd O.V. I.

Sec. F, lot 32 – Carter, Jane 26/June/1834 – 16/June/1894 CR1 (*CR1 – Cemetery source for Lot #)

The third member of the GAR in 1890 was **Christopher G Christian**

Eaton County Death Records

Vol. 7, page 28 October 3, 1923 date of death **Christopher G Christian**, male, white, married. Age: 77y, 2m, 17d died of a Tumor of prostrate, probably cancer. Born: Michigan, retired Parents: Michael Christian, Born: N. Y. and Ann Bailey, Born: unknown. Wife of Christopher: Vol. 5, page 661 August 3, 1917 date of death

Mary Ann Christian, female, white, married. Age 76y, 1m, 26d of Cardiac dilatation. Born: Ohio Housewife. Parents: Jonah Ruckman, Born: PA and Barby Rauesbo, Born: unknown.

Prav Funeral Home Records

Christopher Geo. Christian of Ingham County. Married. Tumor of prostrate. Retired painter. Born: 17/July/0000, died 03/Oct/1923. Age 77y. Husband of Mary Ruckman. Father: Michael, born N.Y. State, Mother Ann Bailey.

Maple Hill Cemetery Records

Sec. G, Lot 83 **Christopher G. Christian** 1846 – 03/Oct/1923 CR2 (GAR) marker: Co. D. 16th MI. Inf. **Mary A Christian** Sec G, Lot 83, 1841 – 03/Aug/1917, Mother CR2

CR2 – Cemetery record is source for interment date and lot #.

Register of Deeds, Book B-40, page <u>157</u> October 27, 1879 Christopher G Christian to David B Terryll

Between Christopher G Christian and Mary A Christian, his wife, of

1890 GAR Post 40 Charlotte, Michigan

Windsor, Eaton County, Michigan of the first part, and **David B Terryll** of the same place, of the second part.

Consideration of the sum of Fifty five dollars for lots three and four of Block C in the Village of Dimondale according to the recorded plat thereof, said village being in town three north, of range three west, Michigan.

To be paid on or before one year from date with interest thereon at the rate of ten per cent per annum.

Charlotte Tribune. August 8, 1917

Mrs. C G Christian

Mary A Ruckman, was born in Richland County, Ohio, June 9, 1841, where she grew to womanhood and at the age of 18 she united in marriage with Levi Cocklin. To this union were born 2 children, one dying in infancy, her husband passing from this life on June 18, 1864.

She removed to Michigan in 1871 and united in marriage to **Jacob Christian** who died November 8, 1873. To this union was born one daughter.

On May 2, 1874, she was married to C G Christian who with two children, who were born to this union, survives her.

She was converted to the Christian faith in childhood and has lived a life of a firm believer in the Christian faith. She leaves her husband, three daughters and one son. Mrs Chas Fhaner of Benton, Mrs Fred Davis of Limon, Colorado, Mrs Lewis Hartel of Benton, and Ernest Christian of Lansing, nine grandchildren, two brothers, B S Ruckman and Amos Ruckman, one sister Mrs. J J Bittner, all of Ohio.

He was a member for 50 years of the Potterville M. E. Church and lived for 25 years in Charlotte.

Four children are left to mourn. No close relatives as he was the last of the family. One Brother and two sisters gone before. The funeral was held from the home of **Lewis Hartel**.

Rev. Alvan Camon officiated assisted by **Rev. Davis** of Potterville. **A. S. Williams Post GAR** attended the service and acted as Pallbearers. Interment: Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte.

Eaton County Marriage Record

(Mary Ann was Christopher's second wife) Vol. 4 page 98 May 2, 1874 at Benton Township. Christopher G Christian, age 30 of Windsor. Born: Ingham County, Michigan. Occupation: Farmer Married Mary Ann Christian (Ruckman) of Windsor, age 32. Born: Ohio Married by James Nixon, Minister of Gospel. Witness: Wesley Nixon and Alice Nixon, both of Benton.

While researching for vital records in Roxand township in Eaton County, Michigan you will come across another name for Roxand township- Roxana. [see: 1860 Eaton County, Roxana Twp. Plat map]

There is an interesting story behind the original name of Roxana. In the book "History of Eaton County, Michigan" page 406 column 2, paragraph 2 the story begins, "Among the early residents of the old township of Chester were William Crother and wife, or a woman who passed for his wife, it having become known that he had left his lawful wife somewhere in New York and fled to Canada with the other woman, to whom he was there married, coming afterwards to Michigan. Her son-inlaw. William Cummings. complained of the parties before Henry A. Moyer, Esq. and they employed a lawyer named Bradley to defend them. Esquire Moyer admitted some evidence in the case which was not strictly admissible and Bradley was much displeased. He (Bradley) was subsequently elected to the Legislature, where he was serving when the township of Chester was divided.

The inhabitants in the north half (now Roxand) wished to retain the name of Chester; but as the south part contained the post office of that name, it's inhabitants sent a petition to **Mr. Bradley** to use this influence in their behalf and allow them to retain the name. **Bradley** had not forgotten his defeat before **Esquire Moyer**, who lived in the north part and when the division was made the south half remained Chester, while the north half, at **Mr. Bradley** instance, was given the name Roxana- that of the woman in the aforementioned case. The clerk, by some means, made a mistake and wrote it Roxand, and **Bradley's** revenge was not all he had intended it to be."

So who was this notorious **Roxana Crother? Roxanna** was born ca. 1808 in Massachuetts the daughter of **William Codding** of Dighton, Massachusetts and **Ansenth Pratt** of Taunton, Massachusetts.

William Codding and Ansenth Pratt married 6 May 1804 in Taunton, Bristol Co., Massachusetts. They had eight known children, 5

girls and 3 boys, as follows:

1. Roxanna Codding, wife of William Crowther, born ca. 1805-08 in Mass.

2. Clarissa Codding, wife of Orton Williams of Stockbridge, Ingham Co., Michigan, b. ca. 1807 in New York.

3. William A. Codding, husband of Mariah Luther of Lenawee Co., Michigan, b. 14 Mar 1814 in Farmington, Ontario Co., New York.

4. Asenath Codding, wife of Elijah Terrill of Hillsdale, Hillsdale Co., Michigan, ca. 1815 New York.

5. George W. Codding, husband of Anna Cummins of Roxand Twp.,

Eaton Co., Michigan, b. ca. 1817 in New York.

6. Charles W. Codding, of Bellevue, Eaton Co., Michigan, b. ca. 1821.

7. Eliza Jane Codding, wife of John Hunter in Canada, b. ca. 1823 in New York.

8. Caroline Codding, wife of Norman Olmstead of Bellevue, Eaton Co., Michigan, b. ca. 1826 in New York.

All these children were named in their mother, **Asenath Codding's**, probate file in Eaton Co., Michigan. **Asenath Codding** removed to Ontario Co., New York during her marriage to **Wm. Codding** and after his death she removed to Chester Twp., Eaton Co., Michigan.

Roxanna Codding/Crowther shows up in Eaton county in 1837 land deed records buying a property in her own name in Hamlin Twp., Eaton Co., Michigan.

In 1839 she and her husband, William Crowther are buying a lot of property in section 28 of Chester township (later Roxand Twp.). This would become their home base for several years.

Land buying and selling went on back and forth within the **Crowther and Codding** families. It was also during this time that **Roxana's** mother, **Asenath Codding**, bought property in 1841 in section 21 of Chester township, which was located right across the road from her daughter **Roxana Codding/Crowther**.

In that same year, 1841, Roxana Codding/Crowther sold to Samuel Wheaton Jr. 40 acres in section 28 of Chester township. With in the year after this sale, in April of 1842, there were three civil suits filed in Eaton Co. Circuit Court. Samuel Wheaton Jr. vs Asenath Codding, Samuel Wheaton Jr. vs George W. Codding and William & Roxana Crowther vs Asenath Codding. All filed within a few of days of each other.

The summons to circuit court the 9th of April 1842 contain allegations that **Asenath Codding** and her son, **George W.Codding** had trespassed on to property owned by **Samuel Wheaton Jr.** Also, that **Asenath Codding** had trespassed on to property owned by **William and Roxana Crowther.** Both **Asenath and George Codding** were accused of trespassing with one thousand dollars in damages in each of the three suits.

It is interesting that the **Crowther** and Wheaton lawyers were none other than "Gibbs & Bradley", the same Bradley named as the lawyer who named the township. So were these suits part of the story, too? The court record does not tell.

The three suits never came to court and were discharged, being that the suits were not pursued by either plaintiffs, so the details are lost to history. Yet, keep in mind that these suits were filed before the division of Chester to Roxana/Roxand in 1843.

So, they might well be part of the story not covered in the "History of Eaton County, Michigan".

The alleged adultery brought before **Mr. Moyer** has no county or court record anywhere but in the "History of Eaton County, Michigan" book. As **Mr. Moyer** was a Justice of the Peace at the time in Chester Township in 1841 and by Michigan law he could have civil offenses brought before him, one being adultery. So that part of the story could be true.

There is one known error in that story that must be corrected. The named son-in-law of William and Roxana Crowther, William Cummings, who is said to have first went to Henry Moyer with the complaint of adultery against the Crowther's, was really William Cumming/Cummins the brother-inlaw of George W. Codding, his wife was Anna Cummins. George W. Codding being the brother of Roxana Crowther. William and Roxana Crowther's only daughter old enough to marry was not married to William Cummins, William Cummins married an Anne VanAllen in January of 1842. Any other errors in the story are not known at this time.

So were Roxana and William Crowther legally married? Well, Roxana Codding/Crowther believed they were. I found in Calhoun Co., Michigan that the county circuit court granted a petition

for a divorce to **Roxanna Crowther** from **William Crowther** dated 25 May 1847. **William Crowther** was accused of several acts of extreme cruelty. **Roxana Crowther** got custody of their minor children and payment of money was required from Mr. Crowther to care for the children and to be paid weekly. She also got their personal property and retained all real estate that was in her personal name. The divorce decree even stated that she could legally marry again, which she did two years later.

Roxana Crowther of Battle Creek, age 42 married **Eugene J. Mann** of Detroit, age 25 on the 31st of January 1849 in Charlotte, Eaton Co., Michigan. They settled in Marshall, Calhoun Co., Michigan and they were enumerated in the 1850 census in that county-

E. L. Mann, age 32, male, laborer, born New York;

Roxana Mann, age 42, female, born Massachusetts;

Betsy Mann [Crowther], age 13, born Michigan.

Her new life was short lived as **Roxana Mann** for she died on the 7th of September 1850 from an unknown cause. Guardianship papers were filed in Calhoun County for her remaining four minor children still living with her at her death and these papers stated her death date. I could not find an obituary or a burial site for her in Marshall, Michigan.

In the 1840 census Chester Twp., Eaton Co., Michigan under **Wm. Crowther** there was one male 5-10

and one male 30-40, 2 females age 0-5, one female 5-10, one female 10-15, one female 15+, one female 30-40= one son and five daughters. These are the known children of

William Crowther and Roxana Codding:

1. Azelia Crowther, wife of James Haigh of Bedford, Calhoun Co., Michigan, born ca. 1827 in New York.

2. Hannah Crowther, wife of Nathaniel Barney Jr. of Bedford, Calhoun Co., Michgan, born ca. 1830 in Canada.

3. Charles William Crowther, husband of Cornelia Austin of Barry Co., Michigan, born ca. 1832 in East Canada.

4. **Clarissa Jane "Clara" Crowther**, unmarried, born ca. 1832 in East Canada, burial in Convis Twp., Calhoun Co., Michigan 1869.

5. Betsy Asenath Crowther, wife of George B. Hicks of Calhoun Co., Michigan, born ca. 1837 in Michigan

6. **Mary Ann Crowther**, unmarried, born after 1841 in Michigan, died after 1847 and before 1850.

What ever happened to **William Crowther** is unknown. The 1850 Calhoun Co. guardianship papers states he was believed to be living in California. A search of California census resulted in no conclusive find, but a Michigan search did turn up a **William Carothers**, age 53 (ca. 1797), in Wheatland Twp., Hillsdale,

Co., Michigan, born New York.

In 1853 **William Crowther** had defaulted on his mortgaged land in section 28 of Roxand Twp., Eaton Co., Michigan, 120 acres, original mortgage dated 15 March 1842 carried by **Philo Dibble**. It was sold at auction by the Eaton County Sheriff to **Philo Dibble**.

So some new information can be added to the old story of whom Roxand Township was named. Now one can wonder why Eaton county and it's residents used the name Roxana township for more than twenty years? When did they make the change to Roxand and exactly why? A research project for the future.

Written and submitted by Sue Chaplin-Thompson August 2008

October 2008, New Information: Roxand Township

A new tale of the naming of Roxand Township of Eaton Co., Michigan was found in the book by Letha Bentley, "Patchwork Memories of Roxand Township and Mulliken". Found on page 21 and taken from the diary of Chester Miller, ca. age 21 residing in Chester/Roxand Township before 1835, this was his first hand account of the naming of Roxand Township.

<u>"2 December 1842---</u>Meeting held, to name the township. Indians called it

Rocks and Sand. Some wanted to take the s off Rocks, leave out the and, call it Rocksand. **William Crother** wanted it named **Roxana** after his wife. People didn't want it named after his wife, she was a trouble maker. Everyone called her a "witch of a bitch". Meeting closed, no progress, hard feelings. As we left

the meeting, large white flakes of snow settle stealthily on the trees.

<u>30 January 1843</u>—A gray January day that promises snow. Another meeting. Roxana was to be the name of the township. **Peter Vanhauten** was a religious man, people trusted him, they voted for him to take the name to the clerk.

<u>17 Februarv 1843</u>---Warm and sunny, cut wood with three others, as we cut wood, **Peter Vanhauten** asked, us, if we thought God would forgive him four putting a line from the "a" upward which made a "d" making the name for the Township Roxand instead of Roxana. We told him, yes, God would forgive him. To make him feel better we stopped our work and prayed to God to forgive **Peter Vanhauten**. We vowed--never to tell.

<u>29 December 1843</u>---Cold windy day---School burnt, people claimed **Mrs. Crother** set it afire.

Hooper Road By Larry Randall

Butterfield Highway and Base line some nine miles south of Charlotte one finds Hooper Road.

This road follows an old trail once named Old State Road. One of Brookfield Townships earliest roads. Early maps show this trail running from south Cochran, in Eaton County to a point near the Clarence Center Cemetery in Calhoun County. The road got its name from the largest farm on that old pioneer trail. **Miles and Mina (Lamb) Hooper** had obtained the property from **Eugene Scott.** The brick home built on the highest point still stands.

Here are photos of Miles and Mina's headstones:



Our Family Cemeteries

Family Togetherness

An older woman recently returned from her home-town in North Carolina and told a friend they'd spruced up the churchyard cemetery since her last visit several years past. "Lots of new greenery," she said. "And families are together now." "All together?" her friend asked puzzled.

"Well," the first replied, "years ago they never much worried where they buried someone because everyone was a neighbor anyhow. They'd just dig a grave wherever it seemed to balance things. But they've redone it so people are with their children and grandchildren, instead of scattered." The friend was still puzzled. "You mean they exhumed all those people and reburied them?"

"Oh my gosh, no," was the replay. "We just shifted the headstones. Everyone agrees it looks so much nicer." !!!!!! (and we wonder why we can't find someone!)

Author unknown.....

With the coming of spring and warm weather, we as genealogist will begin our yearly pilgrimage to cemeteries in search of our ancestors.

Please read the following article written by Camille Bowman, an Architectural Conservator before you clean your next stone. Cleaning Gravestones Use the Gentlest Means Possible By Camille Bowman

It is most often in the spring, usually concurrent with pilgrimages to historic homes, that the "cemetery bug' bites. Well-meaning individuals and groups go for a cemeterycleaning day, armed with chlorine bleach, scrubbing powders, and sometimes even machine-driven pressure washers. Although it gives everyone a fine feeling of satisfaction to attack old, darkened markers with vigor and elbow grease, sometimes, unfortunately, more harm than good is done. It comes as a big surprise to people who think of masonry as the most durable of materials to learn that the marble, granite and limestone of old grave markers is far softer and more porous than one would think. For this reason, the general rule of thumb in cleaning them is: "Use the gentlest means possible."

When you undertake a cemetery cleaning project you must first determine what you want in the way of "clean". Remember that old, weathered stone does not have to look new. You probably want to remove harmful pollutants or lichen, but you certainly don't want to scrub until the surface of the stone erodes.

Approach each project; no matter what material the grave marker is made of, by asking yourself, "What is the gentlest means possible?" The harshest, quickest, or cheapest method is often not the gentlest. Certainly, blasting with chemicals,

Our Family Cemeteries

sand, glass beads or water is not the gentlest means possible. It is best to begin with plain water. You will find that most foreign materials are removed quite satisfactorily with this simple approach.

It is very important to know that acids are very damaging to marble and limestone. Never use chlorine bleach. Always watch carefully to make sure that none of the stone's surface is eroding as you gently scrub.

Haner Cemetery

Located in Section 13, on Gresham, just east of Shaytown, set back from the road in a field. It was thought to be owned by the township when ECGS produced "Eaton County Cemeteries, Vermontville Township" in 2001.

When I was in the ECGS research room and talked with **Sue Thompson**, she informed me that a deed had been found and the cemetery is in fact still the property of the township.

Sue said that a group of people had cleaned out the brush and some of the stones that were found were set back up. The township will have to maintain it. We will no longer have to wade thru creeping myrtle or worry about snakes to visit this cemetery. She also said that someone was in the process of taking pictures of what stones were left and will soon be available in the research room. If you plan to visit this cemetery in the spring, please stop by the farm house to let them know you are crossing their property.

ECGS volunteers have read many cemeteries in Eaton County. You may email or call a room volunteer for information about the following cemeteries:

Chester Township:

Gresham Cemetery Needmore Cemetery

Kalamo Township: Cogsdill Cemetery Kalamo Cemetery Mason Cemetery

Sunfield Township:

Brown Cemetery Freemire Cemetery Sunfield Cemetery

Vermontville Township:

Haner Cemetery Patterson Cemetery Vermontville Cemetery Woodlawn Cemetery

Plus:

Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Ledge Maple Hill Cemetery, Charlotte

What's New At The ECGS Library

By Sharlene Thuma, librarian, <u>tsthuma@iuno.com</u> Note: call numbers are subject to change.

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

MICHIGAN:

• yearbook- <u>Red Cedar Log</u>, MI State University, 2008; a gift by Sue Polhamus......SC.333.MS.1

Calhoun County-

• 4 yearbooks- <u>Albioninian</u>, Albion College, 1984-1987; a gift by Shannon Rathbun.....

Eaton County-

booklet- Foundations of a Century in Progress 1833-1935 by the Centennial Committee, 32 pp.; a gift by Catherine Noe Haupt......Bellevue.4
notebook- obituary newspaper clippings, 1980s-2000s, not indexed; a gift by Robert Kiplinger....... OB.48
photo - Charlotte High School, group of 59 people outside of main entrance (teacher & pupils), black & white; a gift by the Ionia County Genealogical Society via Pam Swiler.....P.604

• scrapbook- newspaper clippings of school children group photos, 1907-1940, 15 pp., schools are Miers, Southworth, Wheaton, Perry, McGlaughlin, Washington, Charlotte HS, Perkey, Grammar, Longfellow, Ellis, Boody, & Wade; a gift by Anonymous......SC.4.6 • book- 50th Reunion 2008 CHS Class of '58 by Jack Smith & David M. Meyers, many photos; a gift by the Class of 1958.....SC.504.10

Ionia County-

SURNAMES:

 certificate- <u>Special Tribute</u> to Alice Marie
OGDEN, 1987; a gift by William Ogden626.5
 notebook- CARMAN & RULISON families; a
gift by Robert C. Kiplinger900.CA.06
• notebook- CARMEN family; a gift by Robert C.
Kiplinger900.CR.02
 notebook- CONSOR, WEAVER &
ZEPERNICK families; a gift by Robert C.
Kiplinger900.CO.05

• notebook- CROZIER family; a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger......900.CR.02 • notebook- ELLS' families, group sheets. etc.. 14 pp.; a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger.....900.EL.02 • notebook- KINGMAN, GOODNOE, & McCLINTOCK families; a gift by Robert C. notebook- KIPLINGER & WEAVER & families (birth & death certificates); a gift by Robert • notebook- KIPLINGER family; a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger......900.KI.09 • notebook- Descendants of Peter KUBLINGER: a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger.....900.KU.01 • 2 tablets- My Life. handwritten by James WARDELL at 79-80 years old, born 1855, parents are Frank Wardell & Margaret Cooper; a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger.....Journal.29a,b • certificate- Dorothy MORGAN, Grammer, Lake Co, FL, 1921: a gift by Leila Klaiss.....OS.64 • photo album- HULL & ASHLEY, once owned by Margaretta Ashley Hall, 1840s; a gift by Shari Snider......P.602.os reproduced photo- Frank & Carrie WHEATON; a gift by Frank Passic.....P.603 • photo- Florence WALCH, black & white, 1923 (Valedictorian of CHS); a gift by Leila • photo- unidentified, large group of people (about 150), black & white; a gift by Leila Klaiss.....P.606.os • 175 photos- WARDELL family, other surnames are CLARK, COOPER, STILLMAN, ROSS, UNDERHILL, FLANDERS, WOOD, KILLEEN, RUTTER, MOSHER. EVANS, HAYWOOD, SWAN, CURTIN, TRIPLETT, BAUER, etc., also includes some letters & greeting cards; a gift by Carolyn M. Killeen.....P.607.os · 5 photos- Emma Loretta & Dorothy Hosmer BALDWIN, black & white; a gift by Catherine Noe Haupt.....P.608 · scrapbook- various surnames: a gift by Robert C. Kiplinger.....SB.76

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