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Contents.....Page

St. Johns Bicycle Band..1
Sperry 's Corner.....8
Presidents, Soldiers, Statesmen (cont.) . . . 9
Surnames. 11



ST. JOHNS BICYCLE BAND

In the 1885, not content to only master the skill of riding a "high wheeler," some young musicians of St. Johns decided to try playing their band instruments at the same time. These men became accomplished at making music and steering with one hand while perched high off the ground on the unstable machine which had an oversize front wheel and a small back wheel. They became widely known as the St. Johns Bicycle Band (SJBB) and appeared in parades and shows from 1886 to 1891.

The SJBB had its debut when the idea was still fresh on Nov. 23, 1885, at the Diamond Rink, a new roller skating facility in St. Johns. Evidently, they were encouraged to carry on and by Apr. 17, 1886, they were participating in a concert in St. Johns along with local vocalists, the Robbins Band of Owosso, and the Horace Keys Ladies' Band of Elsie. The lineup for the Memorial Day parade on May 31, 1886, showed the SJBB in the lead as the march went from Clinton Ave., east on Walker Street to the cemetery. They also led the 4th of July parade that year. The *Clinton Republican* reported on July 18, 1886: "St. Johns has the only band in the world, so far as we have returns, that can discourse sweet music from a full complement of brass instruments and drums, from the saddles of their steeds of steel. When the SJBB rode up and down the avenue, two abreast, on their shining bicycles, playing stirring martial music, they were received with surprise, enthusiasm, and delight."

In 1977 the story of the SJBB inspired Ron Higgins of Royal Oak, a former St. Johns student, to assemble and coach a band comprised of relatives and some St. Johns 8th grade band students to ride in the St. Johns homecoming parade. Some of these musicians went through

The original St. Johns Bicycle Band was comprised of thirteen men. Here is a list of the known members, several of whom performed musically the rest of their lives:

ORIGINAL MEMBERS

- Albert H. Brown (ca1868-12 Feb 1941)
- Charles M. Fowler, Jr.
- Andy Hicks (10 Sep 1871-26 May 1925)
- William Holton
- Martin D. Hubbard (ca1877-ca29 Mar 1947)
- David L. Hunt (30 Apr 1866-4 Dec 1937)
- Rodney S. Palmer
- George R. Rhodes
- Ralph V. Sage (Aug 1868?–ca 24 Nov 1943)
- Robert G. Steel (ca1868–6 Sep 1947)
- George A. Sumner (ca1864–15 Aug 1955)
- Henry A. Tromp
- George Woodruff

OTHER MEMBERS

- DeWitt H. Hunt (15 Dec 1864–20 Jan 1958)
- Fred K. Tremper (2 Dec 1875–22 May 1944)
- Putt Walton
- Henry Washburn
- Louis Washburn
- Martin Washburn
- "Warty" Washburn

the routines on tandem bikes. Several, who needed both hands to play their instrument, rode tricycles.

On June 13-14, 1992, the SJBB was re-created for the Great American Band Festival held in Danville, Kentucky. Alexander Pollock, Director of the Dodworth Saxhorn Band in Detroit, undertook the challenge first to obtain vintage cycles and uniforms; then to train the musicians (many of whom were members of the Whistle Pig Cyclones Magnificent High Wheel Band of Monroe, Michigan) to board the cycles with their instruments and finally to simultaneously play and ride. He was able to locate and restore an antique bass drum and to recruit a drummer and drum major. This ensemble practiced up on two period tunes, *Bicycle Bells March* and *Up in a Balloon*. After six months of preparation they rode in the convention parade and joined in entertaining the crowds at various venues during the 2-day event.

The following obituary abstracts and other biographical information expands the perception of this unique organization.

ALBERT H. BROWN – "Rochester Colony. Word has been received of the death Feb. 12 at San Pedro, Calif. of Albert H. Brown, aged 73. Mr. Brown was born on the farm one mile east of the Colony and spent his youth in this community. He played a horn with the young men of the community as a lad and continued his career as a musician for many years. He is survived by his widow; five sons, Carl, George, Marion, Selbert, Robert; a daughter Helen; and his twin sisters, Mesdames Ella Teeter and Helen DuBois. His brother, Will, passed away several years ago." *CCRN*; 17 Apr 1941



ANDY HICKS, son of Mrs. N. J. Chapin of St. Johns, was born on Sept. 10, 1871, in St. Johns and all his boyhood was spent in this city. ...He had recently been in New York City about thirteen weeks playing in one of the most beautiful theatres in the world. He died May 26, 1925, at Passiac, NJ, and leaves a wife [Edna] and daughter, Mrs. Helen Lewis, and his aged mother of this city." CCR-N; 4 Jun 1925,



Following the above obituary, the CCRN printed a letter of condolence written to Hicks's mother from his co-actor and friend, Roger Imhof. Imhof praised Hicks as professionally "willing and ready at all times" and went on to describe his accidental death by gas affixation in his room in the Hygeria Hotel.

RODNEY S. PALMER, age 12, is living with his parents, B. D. & Mary Palmer, in St. Johns on the 1880 census. The father is a dry goods clerk. Rodney married Lida May Mc Collum of Washington state ca Nov. 1892. In 1910 and 1920, the federal census shows Rodney, a coal merchant, residing with Lida, and son, Charles Stuart, in Ellensburg, Kittitas Co., Washington.





MARTIN D. HUBBARD appears on the 1880 census in Bingham Twp., age 12, with his parents, James and Charlotte Hubbard. His father is a farmer.

"At 10:30 o'clock this morning, at the home of the bride's parents on Walker St. E., Etta J., second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Fildew, will be united in marriage with Martin D. Hubbard. ...The groom is the only son of James A. Hubbard of Bingham Twp., and was born and has grown to manhood here..." CCR-N; 14 Sep 1893

Martin and Etta (Fildew) Hubbard, both age 41, are on the 1910 census in Pontiac Oakland Co., MI. At that time their children are Martha F. (12), Alfred J. (7), Philip M. (4), & Mary J. (9 mos.).

"Martin D. Hubbard, former Clinton County resident, and brother-in-law of Mrs. J. T. Millman of this city, passed away in Pontiac at the age of 70 years. Mr. Hubbard was well known in these parts, having graduated from St. Johns High School [in 1888]. He was the organizer of the Hubbard Spring Works in St. Johns many years ago, later conducting the business of the company from Pontiac. Interment was in Mt. Rest Cemetery here Saturday, March 29." CCR-N; 3 Apr 1947

.....

LOUIS WASHBURN, son of Martin F., is described in the newspaper account of his wedding on 26 Oct 1904, as "prominent in musical circles, a member of the Congregational Church choir and the St. Johns band." [CR; 27 Oct 1904]

DAVID LINCOLN HUNT "died Saturday afternoon, following a long illness. He was 71 years old and St. Johns was his home throughout his entire life. ... As a young man he became interested in insurance, a business he continued to follow the greater part of his life. In 1930 he was elected secretary of the St. Johns Building & Loan Association and devoted the next few years to the duties of that position until ill health forced his retirement. ...David Lincoln Hunt was born April 30, 1866, son of George and Adelaide Hunt, early pioneers of St. Johns. His father founded Hunt's Drug Store and at the time the son was born Mr. and Mrs. Hunt occupied living quarters on the second floor of the store building. He attended the village school and graduated from high school. ...He was married Sept. 9, 1901, to Miss Leah Fowler of St. Johns, who survives him, together with a sister, Mrs. Lena Petrie of Cadillac. ...Burial was made in Mt. Rest Cemetery. CCR-N; 9 Dec 1937



GEORGE R. RHODES is on the 1880 census; age 15; living in St. Johns with his grandparents, J. L. & Jennie L. Kellogg; and attending school. However, the obituary of Carrie (Plumstead) Rhodes (Mrs. Charles A.), who died in Detroit after being run over by an auto in Dec. 1919, states that George is her son and that Jennie Kellogg is her sister. Carrie is the "eldest daughter of the late Alonzo and Lucyietta Plumstead." CCR-N 1 Jan 1925



Rhodes organized the SJBB from members of the St. Johns Bicycle Club about Nov. 1885. He played cornet.

In June 1886 he bought a "fine Rudge bicycle" from Delois E. Leonard of Ovid. CR; 3 Jun 1886

George, his wife Jessie, and daughter Mytal (sic) are documented on the 1900 census as residents of Detroit, Michigan, where he is a railroad conductor.

DE WITT H. HUNT, a life-long resident of St. Johns, was born 15 Dec 1864 on East Higham Street to Arvella and Alonzo Hunt. He graduated from St. Johns High School in 1884 and began working in his father's drug store. He passed the state pharmacy exam in the 1890's and worked in the store his entire life. He was active in politics, business and fraternal circles, and the Congregational Church. Hunt was the church organist for 50 years. Though not an original member, he played the alto horn in the SJBB.

DeWitt Hunt married first, Hattie Baldwin (d 1893); second in 1910, Brownie Bromley (d 1937), with whom he adopted a son, Robert B. Hunt. DeWitt Hunt died Jan 20, 1958, at 93.

"In the bicycle band, which was sponsored by Robert G. Steel, son of the railroad builder and financier who played an important part in this city's early history, were members of well known families of the time, it was recalled by Mr. Hunt. These included: George Rhodes, band leader and cornetist; D. L. Hunt, who mastered the feat of playing the bass drum en route on his high-wheeled bike; Martin, Henry, and Louis Washburn, the snare drum played by Martin; Charles Fowler; Ralph Sage; and Martin Hubbard. ...Mr. Hunt recalled a day when the players ran off the pavement into the sand at Flint, ruining an otherwise impressive performance. ...There was one occasion [League of American Wheelmen convention in 1890's] when the band provided entertainment for a gathering at the Steel Hotel, and high-wheeled bicycles, leaning against the hotel walls while the players were inside for the concert, attracted as much interest from people in the street outside as the music within the banquet hall. Many of those who attended the meeting came there on high-wheeled bikes, as well, making an awesome sight to the beholders on that memorable occasion." CCR-N; 18 Aug 1955

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CHARLES M. FOWLER, JR., is on the 1880 census, age 12, living in St. Johns with his parents, Charles and M. J. Fowler. Charles, Sr., is listed as a hardware merchant.

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HENRY B. WASHBURN – "Wed., Jan. 18, Henry B. Washburn and Miss Marie Woodhead, both of Saginaw, were married at the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Washburn, in St. Johns. Mr. Washburn is well and favorably known in St. Johns and before going to Saginaw he was bookkeeper in the National Bank here for 8 years. At present he is secretary of the Alderton-Melze Wholesale Shoe Co. The bride is a musician of rare ability and has been teaching piano and pipe organ since she came from London, England, a year ago, where she graduated from a fine conservatory. Mr. and Mrs. Washburn will soon commence housekeeping in Saginaw on W. Main St."CR; 26 Jan 1911

HENRY A. TROMP is in school on the 1880 census, age 12, living with his parents, William F. & Elizabeth Tromp, in St. Johns. The father is occupied as a joiner.

"Henry A. Tromp and Miss G. Blanche, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Dunn, were married at the home of the bride's parents yesterday



morning at 10 o'clock. ...The bride and groom have lived in St. Johns since childhood..." CR; 30 Apr 1891

Henry A. and Gertrude B. Tromp are shown in the 1910 census in Lane Co., Oregon, where he is a bookkeeper.

FRED K. TREMPER "68, a lifelong resident of St. Johns, died at his home on South Oakland Street Monday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock, after an illness of nearly two years. ...Born Dec. 2, 1875, the son of John P. and Elizabeth Ann Tremper, he gained his early education in the city schools. Early in life he showed a marked musical talent and young started organizations

(cont. on page 6)

RALPH V. SAGE



"Duplain: Brief funeral services were conducted by Rev. Dekker of the Baptist church of St. Johns at Mt. Rest Cemetery for Ralph V. Sage, who passed away last week, Wednesday, at his home in Philadelphia.

Mr. Sage, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Sage. was born in August. 75 years ago in Rochester, N.Y., and when a young boy, moved with his parents to Bingham Township, Clinton County, where they bought a farm thee and one-half miles northeast of St. Johns, and where the family resided for many years. Mr. Sage was graduated from the St. Johns High School [in 1888] and also the University of Michigan.

In 1895 he was married to Miss Winifred Hulick of Detroit and they lived successively at Elmira, N.Y., Philadelphia, and Pittsburg, later moving to Johnstown, Pa., where Mrs. Sage died in 1904 leaving behind the husband, three small children Winfield, Eleanore, and Winifred.

Mr. Sage was a structural engineer and pursued his chosen profession for many years until his health failed. A few years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Sage remarried and Mrs. Sage, who survives him, has tenderly cared for the children until they grew to manhood and womanhood and has been a loving wife through the years.

Those who attended the brief services at St. Johns were the widow of Philadelphia; the son, Major W.H. Sage of New Bedford, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Winifred Brown of Chicago; a sister, Mrs. Carl Wilcox, Mr. Wilcox, and Hazel of Lansing; cousins, Mrs. John Hugas and Mr. Hugus of St. Johns; W. K. Ash and daughter Frances of Flint; and Russell and Ethel Ash of Duplain. Mr. Sage's daughter Eleanor and three children of California, were unable to be present.

During the years that Mr. Sage lived in the east he occasionally revisited the scenes of his boyhood and renewed his old acquaintanceship, and friends found him the same genial, witty companion as in days of yore. His mind was keen and those who attended the meeting of the alumni of St. Johns a few years ago will remember the fine address that Mr. Sage gave that night." *CCRN*; 1 Dec 1943

(Cont. from pg 5) with such high class entertainment concerns as the Hi Henry Show, Wallace-Haggenbach Circus, and his last show duties were with the Primrose Minstrel Show, famous in the early part of this century.

"On Oct 5, 1906, he was married in Indianapolis, IN, to Rose Moinet of this city, and to this union one son, John was born. Soon after his return to St. Johns he started the first moving picture show in the city in the wooden building now occupied by the Wilson Barber Shop. Later this show was moved to a location on East Higham Street. These were the pioneer day of the cinema and the general admission charge was five cents. Later Mr. Tremper was associated with his brother-in-law, O. E. Eisler, in a vaudeville venture in the old Allison Opera House, and still later in another ill-fated movie venture. Since that time he was employed in various business places and the last eight active years as janitor and engineer at the courthouse.

"Besides the widow and son, John, who is manager of the State theatre at East Lansing, he is survived by a brother, Roy Tremper, of this city. ...Burial was made in Mt. Rest." CCR-N; 25 May 1944

ROBERT G. STEEL was the son of Robert M. Steel, builder of the Steel Hotel. In July 1885 he attended a meeting of the National League of American Wheelman in Buffalo, NY, and by Aug. 1885 he was arranging a 6-day bicycle tour of the state. Steel had the agency to sell Victor bicycles in May 1886. He graduated from St. Johns High School in 1886. He became the sponsor of the SJBB, its captain, and drum major. Among his diverse achievements in later life, were receiving a patent in 1894 for an improved incandescent light and once serving as Deputy State Treasurer.



"Robert G. Steel and Miss Nettie Conn were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Conn, Tues. morning at 7 o'clock ..." CR 8 Jul 1896

"Robert G. Steel, 79, former resident of St. Johns, died of pneumonia on Sept. 6, in Detroit. Mr. Steel had lived in Detroit for many years. Interment was in the family mausoleum in Mt. Rest Cemetery here Tuesday. A sister, Mrs. E. P. Waldron of St. Johns, survives." CCR-N; 11 Sep 1947

GEORGE A. SUMNER - "In the death of George A. Sumner from injuries sustained when he was struck by an automobile just after leaving church services last Sunday night, St. Johns lost its oldest active businessman. He was 91 years old on July 31 and, excepting for his childhood years in Ionia where he was born, had spent the rest of his life in this city and vicinity. ... He was an elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church between 50 and 60 years.

"...To the older residents of St. Johns, he was remembered for his talents in music, especially band music. In his 20's he was a member of the St. Johns' famed bicycle band, a group of 15 young men who mastered the art of playing while riding the old high-wheeled bicycles. This was during the latter part of the 1880's and Mr. Sumner used to delight in recalling that the fame of the band was such that the original Barnum & Bailey circus sought to engage them as a feature of the daily circus parade. Reluctance of the parents to permit the boys to travel with a circus caused the idea to be dropped. Mr. Sumner was first cornet player of the band. He was also proficient on the violin and guitar, and in 1914 still greatly interested in band music, organized the first band at St. Johns High School. ...He used to be the librarian for

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Pinckney Reunion secretary's book 1924-1933
- Island Aid Society minutes 1922 & 1923
- DeWitt Comm. Church Directory; 1998-99
- DeWitt Comm. Church, Naomi Circle; program books 1971-2 & 1973-4
- DeWitt Sesquicentennial Souvenir Book
- "Welcome to DeWitt" Directories: 1991 & two undated directories
- Our Martin-Lindquist Family Tree...; compiled by Barbara C. Martin
- Territorial Census 1827 (Michigan)
- Sesquicentennial Calendar, City of St. Johns,
- Playbill, Newton's Hall, 13 Apr 1871
- Photos:
- Greenwood School students; 1946-7
- Greenwood School students & teacher, 1954
- Little Brick School students & teacher; 1925
- Meridian School students & teacher; 1950
- Island School, teachers & students
- Island School (log bldg.)
- Maple Rapids School & students
- Sam Shafer
- Eunice (Randolph) Pinckney
- Isabella Findley
- Glenn & Eda (Cumberworth) White
- Joy McNeil
- Nellie, Moss, Beth, & A.J. VanSickle
- Walter, Annie, & Glen White
- Maple Rapids store, Charlie Altor & Cy Parr
- Clinton Co. Supervisors, ca 1861

the bicycle band, carrying the music in a trunk.

"George A. Sumner was the son of Edmund T. and Martha (Pettengill) Sumner. When the family moved to Clinton Co., he was sent to country schools on reaching school age. He was later [19 Jan 1886] married to Bertha Pettengill, member of a family not related to his mother's although bearing the same name. Two sons were born to them: Karl, who died in 1899, and Keith. The first Mrs. Sumner died in 1927 and on Dec. 22, 1941, Mr. Sumner was married to Ivah Greenwood in St. Johns. Mrs. Sumner and Keith Sumner, U.S. Navy Commander, retired, survive. Mrs. Sumner resides at the family home in Greenbush Twp., northwest of the city, and Keith Sumner lives in an apartment at the Steel Hotel. ...Burial was at Mt. Rest Cemetery."

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MARTIN F. WASHBURN --"St. Johns residents will be sorry to learn of the death of ... Mr. M. F. Washburn. [He] died at his home, 897 Hazelwood Ave., Detroit, on January 4th from a paralytic stroke. ...Mrs. Washburn and their four children, Mrs. F.C. Kingsbury, Ray A., Henry B., and Louie A., were at his bedside when the end came. Mrs. Washburn was born in Bouckville, NY, August 21, 1842.

"He came to St. Johns in 1878 to fill a position in the building and contracting department of the St. Johns Table Co. and remained with them for a number of years. Later he took over the shoe business of F.C. Minnie and was located for some time in the old Brown's Opera House block. When the St. Johns Mercantile Co. was established he went with them as a manager of the shoe department and remained in this position for a number of years.

"It is, however, as a builder—the occupation to which he gave all his later years—that he will be best remembered by his fellow citizens of St. Johns. Some of the city's important buildings remain as evidence of his activity. The Kenyon block is his work, and the Masonic Temple, and the Hyatt building. He also built the East Ward school as well as the Catholic parsonage and the Moss garage. ...He was always interested in public affairs and at different times served as alderman from the second ward and was an active member of the Board of Public Works for three years.

"But it is perhaps as a musician that many people will remember him best. Music was a constant joy and diversion to Mr. Washburn's influence. In the earlier life of the city, no great or festive occasion was ever complete without his band to enliven it or his orchestra to add to its pleasure...." CCR-N 10 Jan 1924

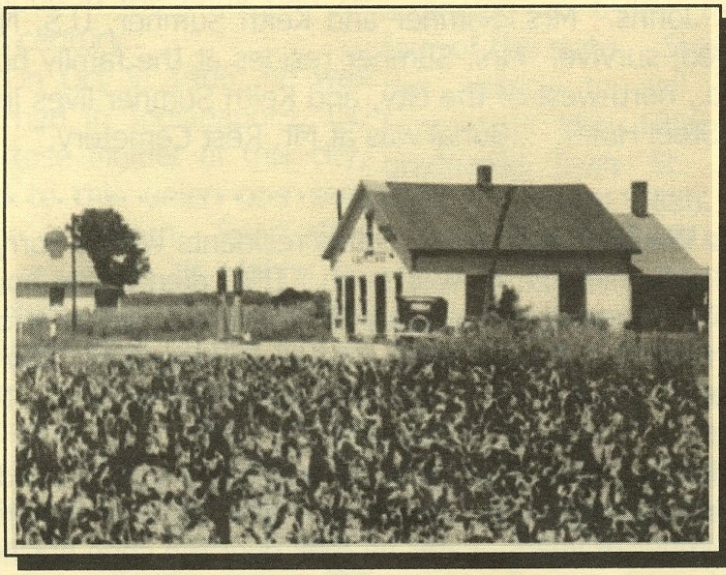
Martin Washburn(e) is on the 1880 census, a carpenter residing in St. Johns, with his wife, May, & children Ray (10), Henry (5) & Edith (3).

CR Clinton Republican
CCRN Clinton Co. Republican News

Note: No information was found on William Holton, George Woodruff, or Putt Walton, and the identity of "Warty" Washburn remains a mystery. Material for this story was gathered from the Archives of the Clinton Co. Historical Society, Bement Room at Briggs Public Library, Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, and the website of the Library of Michigan

See **"Clinton County Place Names"** on our web page. [www.dewittlibrary.org/CCHS] Wayne Summers has set up a source there for identifying Clinton County locations by their obscure, obsolete, alternate, and informal names. [Additions or corrections are appreciated.]

One of these Country locations was named, ***"Sperry's Corner."*** Here you could find the neighborhood folk daily, evenings and especially on rainy days, playing cards, talking about crop and weather conditions, and sharing neighborly conversation at "Sperry's Corner"



This neighborhood gas station and store was the entrepreneurial project of Juan E. (Joe) [b.1860 NY-d. 1940 MI] and Hannah E. (Newman) [b.1870 MI - d.1947 MI] Stanton. The Stanton home's garage, located in the middle of section thirty of Olive twp, facing west on Airport road (according to Arthur Newman, Hannah's nephew), was used to operate a small grocery store for several years. About 1929 or 1930, they built a grocery store/gas station situated on one acre of section one of Riley Twp. Clinton County tax records indicate they paid taxes on this property from the year 1931 through 1941. Interestingly, they were taxed separately, one tax for the business and one for the gas tanks that were located in the ground. Art Newman also remenbers a story of when a man bought gas, went into pay and pulled a knife on Joe and told him to give him his money. Joe quickly showed the man his shot gun and needless to say the man left rather quickly. Story has it that a few shots were heard as the man drove off.



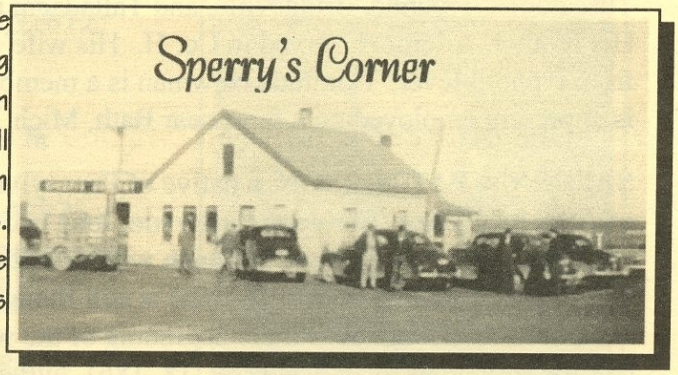
Dean Sperry, Juan "Joe" & Hannah Stanton, & Dotty Christen

In August of 1942, the Stanton's sold their home to Erwin [1911-1991] and Jewel (Reed) [1915-1993] Rossow for $750. The store was purchased shortly after that, (either in the fall of 1942 or early 1943) by Dean Eleazer [1886-1959] and Luella (Winslow) [1888-1959] Sperry, who continued to run the business until 1955.

LeeAnn (Rossow) Dietz, remembers many a night going with her father, Erwin Rossow, and watching the men share conversation, card playing, and a drink or two. She remembers, single-dip ice cream cones for 5 cents, even though, Dean would give her two dips for the price of one. She remember Luella sharing her WWII gas rations with the Rossow family, allowing them to go on an occasional family outing, since her Dad's rations were all used for his transportation to work.

LaVern Rossow, son of Raymond [1905-1997] and Beatrice (Holland) [1910-2002] Rossow, remembers soda pop for 5 cents. Dean would give him 1 cent for every bottle that he picked up off the road, even if the bottle wasn't a recyclable one. So every time he went to the store, he would make a trip up and down Price or Airport road, picking up the bottles that were discarded. He remembers Dean & Luella as extremely nice folks. LaVern said, "You could always find men sitting in the parlor chairs at one of the round tables, playing an intense game of cards." He could remember Luella fixing a sandwich for any one that needed a bite to eat. He remembers the first gas pumps, having to pump the gas up into the top; then

gravity would allow it to flow down into the car's gas tank. He remembers Dean fixing car engines and changing tires, along with selling gasoline and the dry goods in the store. Ivan Sperry, grandson of Dean & Luella, remembers helping sell soda pop and cigarettes [abt age 8-9] when the Mexican migrant workers would be in the area for summer harvests. He also remembers, a large slab of cheese hanging up in the store. His grandmother would give him a slice, which to this day brings delicious memories. He remembers them both being very hard working and kind people, and that he received 2 cents for every bottle he picked up.





Luella (Winslow) & Dean Sperry

After 1955, the store was rented to the Shafer family for residence and then by the Ivan Sperry family. The Stanton/Sperry Store no longer graces the corner of Price & Airport, but the Stanton family home remains intact with many modern additions and is currently owned by Dean & Luella's great grand daughter, Jaymie Sperry.

Today, Sperry's Corner is just a memory of friendly neighborhood times.

by Rowland Smith & Kim [Howe] Sperry

PRESIDENTS, SOLDIERS, STATESMEN (continued) See Vol. 19, No. 1

JAMES A. NEWMAN was born in 1846 and was living in Clinton County, Mich., engaged in farming, when the late war of the Rebellion began. He was a member of Co. H, 2d Mich. Cav., 4 Brig., 3 Div., 4 C.C., being enrolled Feb. 9, 1864, and has an honorable war record. From July 10 to August following his Regt. was employed to guard railroads from Nashville to Rutherford Creek and from Nashville to Murfreesboro. He was to the front in the following engagements: Dug Gap, Red Clay, Etawah River, Ackworth, Nashville, Campbellville, Franklin, Cypress River, Raccoon Ford, Shoal Creek, Lawrenceburg, Columbia, Spring Hill, Bethesda Church, Franklin, Nashville, Richland Creek, Sugar Creek, Princeton Yard, Corinth, Tuscaloosa, Tryunne, Bridgeville, and Talladaga. His Regt. made an attack on rebel Cav. March 27, 1864, capturing three pieces of artillery and seventy-five prisoners. He was granted an honorable discharge Nov. 1, 1865, at Chattanooga, Tenn. Comrade Newman is engaged in farming and his post office is Bath, Mich.

SILAS W. NEWMAN was born in Bath, Mich., Aug. 7, 1847, and was a son of **Miles W. and Louisa (Rose) Newman,** dec. His wife, whom he married in 1868 in DeWitt, Mich., bore the maiden name of **Ellen A. Everetts**. She was born July 1850 at Adrian, Mich., a daughter of **James Everetts**, still living. Of this union were born six children in the order here named: **Sarah L., William H., Miles J., Robert, Claud,** and **Eva**. Comrade Newman fought and suffered the hardships of army life during the late war, being a member of Co. H, 2 Mich. Cav. He had been employed on a farm and was about 16 years old when he was enrolled. In 1864 at the battle of Pulaski he was slightly wounded in right knee by spent ball. His Regt. was dismounted to guard prisoners at Nashville and also to guard bridge at penitentiary. He also went on a foraging expedition. His fields of operation were Dandridge, Pigeon River, Dug Gap, Etawah River, Ackworth, Nashville, Campbell Station, Franklin, Cypress River, Raccoon Ford, Shoal Creek, Lawrenceburg, Campbellsville, Columbia, Spring Hill, Bethseda Church, Franklin, Nashville, Richland Creek, Pulaski, Sugar Creek, Princeton Yard, Corinth,

Tuscaloosa, Tryunne, Bridgeville, and Talladaga; receiving an honorable discharge August 1865 at Macon, Ga. His brother, **Adelbert**, served in Co. H. His wife's brother, **Myron,** also served and died at Bridgeport, Ala., from typhoid fever. Comrade Newman is a member of Geo. Anderson Post. He is a farmer by occupation and is at present employed on a farm near Bath, Mich., which is his post office address.

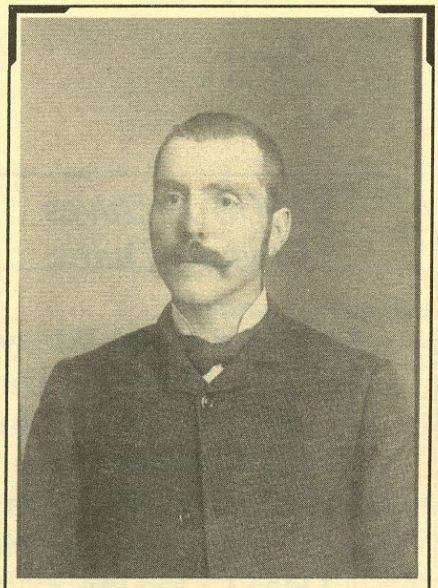
SELDEN A PATTERSON, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in Erie County, March 25, 1830. He was a son of **John and Eliza (Bennett) Patterson**, long ago dec. Coming to Clinton Co., Mich., in 1884, he was married Oct. 24 of that year to **Rosetta Smith** who was born in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 11, 1837. Her father, **John Smith**, is dec., but her mother, **Rhoda (Lewis)** is still living, aged 84 years. To them were born three children: **Ida B., Wilbur,** and **George A**. At the beginning of the war, our subject was engaged in farming and in response to a call for volunteers he enlisted Oct. 18, 1861, at the age of 31 years as a private soldiers in Co. G. 3 Mich. Cav. January 1861 he was confined in hospital at St. Louis nine days on account of inflammation of bowels. Feb. 6 he was furloughed for thirty days and reported for duty at end of time. He was honorably discharged Jan. 1, 1864, and re-enlisted at Lagrange, Tenn., in old Cav. He fought at New Madrid, Corinth, and numerous skirmishes, and was finally honorably discharged Feb. 12, 1866, at San Antonio, Tex. His brothers, **Edward** and **B.F.**, served in the late war. Comrade Patterson is S.V.C. of Wagner Post. He is a farmer by occupation with post office address at Eureka, Mich.

JOHN PATTERSON was born in Geauga County, Ohio, Dec. 25, 1837, and was a son of **Thomas and Mary Patterson**, dec. His helpmate in life's journey was **Sarah E. Decker**, the nuptial knot being tied Jan. 26, 1866, in Montcalm County, Mich. She was born in Tonawanda, N.Y., July 11, 1850. Their hearthstone has been graced with four children: **Annetta, Frank, Fred,** and **Charles**. Aug. 27, 1863, our subject donned the blue and entered the service of his country from Ionia, Mich., when 26 years of age. He was enrolled in Co. G, 10th Mich. Cav., as a private and soon rose to the rank of Corp. In the winter of 1863-4 he was ill at camp Nelson two weeks with chronic diarrhea and stomach trouble. He was also kept in hospital several times for diarrhea. The following are his battles: Preston, Johnsonville, Ream Station, Rogersville, Kings Salt Works, New Market, Williamsport, Duck Bottom, Sevier, Newport, Greenville, Moss Creek, Bulls Gap, Strawberry Plains, Flat Creek, Pea Ridge, Sweetwater, Carters Station, Johnson Station, Madisonville, Kingsport, Bristoe Station, and several others, receiving an honorable discharge Nov. 11, 1865. His brother, **Thomas**, served in 16th Mich. V.I. Cav. His wife's brother, **Harmon**, served in 5th Mich. Cav., was wounded and died in service. A second brother, **Ira**, belonged to 21st Mich. V.I., and died in the army. Our subject's son, **Frank**, is a railway brakeman and **Fred** is a barber. Our subject is living a retired life and his address is St. Johns, Mich.

WILLIAM PIERCE was born in Winsor County, Vt., March 3, 1823, and was a son of **John and Mary (Ralph) Pierce**, dec. He was married Jan. 29, 1864, in Ingham County, Mich., to **Naomi Stone**. Three children were born to them: **Stephen, Mary, and Eva**, dec. He was subsequently married to **Mary Lewis** who was born in Geauga Co., O., a daughter of **Caleb and Ruth (Dilingham) Agard**, dec. The children of this marriage are: **Rosa, Mary E.** (dec.), **Libbie, Walter,** and **Howard**. When the Stars and Stripes were hauled down from Ft. Sumter, he was engaged in farming. He was one of the brave soldiers to enlist in the nation's defense. He had been engaged in farming and was 42 years old when he was enrolled Aug. 28, 1864, as a private soldier in Co. D, 13th Mich. V.I., 2d Brig., 1st Div., 14th A.C. In April, 1865, he was confined in hospital at Bentonville for four weeks, suffering from chronic diarrhea. He participated in several important battles, including Bentonville and Sherman's March to the Sea. He was granted an honorable discharge May 17, 1865, at Dougall Hospital, New York City. He had two brothers in service: **Calvin** and **Almond**. His wife's brother, **William Agard**, died soon after he went into the service. Comrade Pierce is engaged in farming and his address is Bath, Mich.

Surnames:

- Margaret Morrissey: P.O. Box 9395, Analteim, CA 92812: **Woodruff, Wilson, Green(e) & Early.**
- Duane Norris:4540 Hendee Road, Jackson, MI 49201-**Bauerle, Hepfer, Norris, Peters/Petter & Ledermann.**
- Lori Piercefield-Fox: 3011 Knoll Rd., Portland, MI 48875 - **Catlin, Ludwick, Piercefield, Fox/Fuchs & Benjamin.**
- Sally Pontius - 1611 W. Pratt Rd., DeWitt, MI 48820 - **Pontius & Cateline.**
- Marcia Porter: 2216 Kensington, Missoula, MT 59801 - **Knapp, Carpenter, Kyes, Miller & VanTassle/VanTossle.**
- Betsy J. Randall: 10462 E. 64th Street, Reed City, MI 49677 - **Perry, Oberla, Tompkins, Silvernail, Sullivan & Guyer/Gier.**
- Carol Henry: 8711 Meridan Rd., Bannister, MI 48807 - **Falor, Salisbury, Burch, Britten & Evert Lacy Holcomb.**
- Elizabeth Hinkley: P.O. Box 110, Mechanicstown, OH 44651 - **Parker, Cotes, Crane & Doane.**
- Joyce Holbrook: 123 Thompson St., Springfield, MA 01109 - **Keiser, Barrus, Wideman, Grubaugh & Nichols.**



The Archive's received this picture of **Sam Shafer.** The owner would like this to be given to someone in his family. If this is you, please contact the Archives at the number below.

The Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society are located at 16101 Brook Road in the DeWitt Twp. Community Center. Volunteers are there to give research assistance from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays & Fridays. Phone: (517) 482-5117. Web Page: **www.dewittlibrary.org/CCHS**

The Genealogists of the CCHS meet the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm November through March or 7:30 pm April through October in the Firstbank community room, located downtown St. Johns. E-mail address: **ccgensoc@yahoo.com**. The **Historical Society meetings** are held 30 minutes prior to the Genealogist's meetings at Firstbank, the first Monday of January, April, July & October.

The Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum is located on the west side of the Courthouse Square in St. Johns. Open April 1 - Dec 31. Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. & Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

LIST 5 NAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING

Mr./Mrs./Miss_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone_____ **New**____ **Renewal**_____

E-Mail Address_____ **Date**_____

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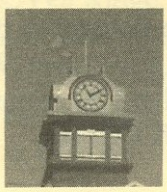
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ANNUAL DUES to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are $15 single and $20 a couple/family. Membership is based on the calendar year and includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *Clinton County Trails.* Checks should be made payable to the Clinton County Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879. Genealogical queries should be addressed to: Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 23 St. Johns, MI 48879.

2006 Archives Closure Dates

April 14 - Good Friday
May 29 - Memorial Day
July 3-4 - Fourth of July
Sept. 4 - Labor Day
Nov. 10 - Veteran's Day
Nov 23-24 - Thanksgiving
Dec 25 to Jan 1- Christmas/NewYears

Celebrating St. Johns' 2006 Sesquicentennial



CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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