

CROSSROADS OF CANTON

Canton Historical Society Newsletter

September-October 1998

Civil War Pension Records Provide Clues to Canton's Past

By David Curtis

One of the best sources for information about early Canton families can be found in the National Archives Civil War pension files. They contain valuable genealogical information.

These files do not all contain the same amount of information, but you can expect to find the name of the veteran, the military or naval unit in which he served, the date and place of his enlistment, his birth date and place. There will also be general affidavits of individuals attesting to the soldier's physical disabilities from service-related injuries, and copies of the examining physicians' findings of the time of the injury and during subsequent periodic physicals.

In most files, you will also likely find—although not always—the date and place of his marriage, names and birth dates of his children, maiden name of his wife, information about subsequent marriages, date and place of his discharge, and his residences since his discharge.

Another document in the pension file is the termination of the pension.



Garden Fairies: October Talk

The October general meeting will feature Sally Beckman of Northville, who will speak on a whimsical theme: "Garden Fairies" Beckman will share stories handed down from her grandmother, who came from England. Such fairy tales were popular there during Victorian times. She will also bring samples of the miniature fairy houses she makes, and explain how you can make your own.

"I give fairy teas and talks for



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Civil War Pension Files continued from page 1

If the cause is death—the most common reason—the death date is usually listed. This can then lead you to an obituary, which may also have helpful information.

Sometimes a soldier died during, or shortly after the Civil War. He never applied for a pension. However, his widow, children, or parents may have applied for a pension. This also provides interesting information.

Ordering the Pension Records

To obtain pension or military service records, you need to write to the National Archives and Records Administration. (See box at right.)

Ask for form NATF Form 80 "National Archives Order for Copies of Veterans Records."

I would request two or three blank forms. Usually they will not send more than three at a time. Two to three weeks later you will receive the blank forms requested. You then need to fill out, at a minimum, the top portion of the form and send it to the same above address.

[Published by ROBERT CLARKE & CO., Law Publishers, 25 West Fourth St., Cincinnati.]

Widow's Claim for Pension.

The State of Michigan, County of Wayne, ss.
 On this twentieth day of July, A. D., 1882, personally appeared before the Register of the Probate Court of the County of Wayne, a Court of Record within and for said county, Mrs. Ann Tait, aged 35 years, a resident of Canton, in the county of Wayne, and State of Michigan, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth, on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress approved July 14, 1862, viz:—
 That she is the widow of John Tait, who was a Sergeant in Company E, commanded by Captain Wm. Hutchinson, in the 24th Regiment of Michigan Volunteers, commanded by Colonel Henry R. Monroe in the war of 1861. (s) Original That her said husband died whilst in action at Fredericksburg, in the State of Virginia, on the thirtieth day of April, A. D. 1862

David Curtis obtained this Widow's Claim for Pension, which was part of John Tait's file. This part of the record shows that Ann Tait, of Canton, had been married to John, who was a sergeant in the 24th Michigan—the famous Iron Brigade—and he died fighting at Fredericksburg in 1863.

I recommend writing on the top of the form that you would like to receive a copy of the entire file.

Once the Archives has located the file they will return a copy of the form you sent in and tell you if they found the file requested. The cost to receive approximately 20 selected pages from the file is \$10.

These selected pages are chosen at random by a clerk at the archives.

If you have requested the

entire file, they will return a copy of your form and notify you of the specific cost. Copying an entire file can cost as much as \$60. My experience has been around \$20 to \$35 dollars for an entire file.

Keep in mind that if you only pay \$10 you will get only selected pages. Key information you may be looking for might not get copied. I know of one individual who paid

the \$10 but several years later sent for the entire file, and then, along with other important information, also received a copy of the family Bible records.

Be patient. It takes between five to six months to receive the requested file.

To obtain pension or military service records, write to:
Textual Reference Branch (NWDT-1)
National Archives and Records Administration
7th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20408

Canton Civil War Pensions Currently on File

Corwin, Amos
 Corwin, Nelson
 Corwin, Erastus
 Huston, Almon
 Huston, William

Kelly, Elisha
 Kelly, William
 Lyon, John (widow Rebecca)
 McDougall, John
 Robinson, Charles (mother Mary)

Safford, Benjamin
 Tait, John (widow Ann)
 Thompson, Issac Dudley & (widow Harriet)
 Treat, Thaddeus (widow Elizabeth)

NOTE: These records will be on file in the Canton Historical Society Museum archives after Curtis has finished analyzing and recording pertinent data.



REMINDER — GENERAL MEETING

“Garden Fairies”

With Sally Beckman

Canton Historical Society Museum
Thursday, October 8, 1998, at 7:30 p.m.

Guests and the public are welcome.
Refreshments will be served.

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton by Virginia Bailey Parker

NAME _____

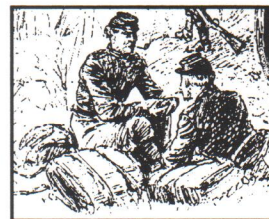
STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



Make a check for \$14.95 (price includes shipping and handling) payable to: Canton Historical Society.
Mail this form and the check to: Canton Historical Society, P.O. Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362.

Adopt a Civil War Soldier



I would like to make a contribution to obtain the pension records of (check one):

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Adams, David Leroy | • Filkins, William | • Safford, Joseph |
| • Baker, George W. | • Gardner, William | • Stevens, Newell |
| • Baker, Murray S. | • Gillispie, James | • Truesdell, Ephraim |
| • Baker, Thomas J. | • Leonard, Hiel | • Truesdell, Horace |
| • Berdan, Dixon | • Nelson, Issac | (minor child of Ephraim) |
| • Collier, Ortha | • Newkirk, Charles | • Truesdell, Lewis B. |
| • Coykendale, Alfred | • Newton, Stephen | (minor child of Ephraim) |
| • Derby, Ezra E. | • Packard, Winslow | • Westfall, Orson |
| • Eldred, George | • Passage, John | |
| • Fairman, Sebre | • Pooler, Leson | • No preference |

Amount of donation (check one):

• \$_____ • \$25 • \$_____

Please return this slip with your donation and make the check payable to: Canton Historical Society.
Mail the slip and check to Canton Historical Society, PO Box 87362, Canton, Michigan 48187-0362.

Canton Civil War Pension Files on Order but Not Yet Received:

Amrhine, John M.
Bartlett, James
Bartlett, John A.
Berdan, Harrison
Boutt, Paul
Chaffee, Martin

Comer, George
Dicks, Wallace
Hill, Alvah S.
Lee, John
Lewis, Lloyd
Newkirk, Charles

Thanks . . .

To Wayne Historical Museum for donating copies of pension records for:

Almon Huston
William Huston
Thaddeus Treat

And to Jackie Doran for donating copies of the pension records for:

William B. Kelly
Elisha H. Kelly

Additional Files CHS Would Like to Obtain

Would you be willing to support Canton Historical Society's efforts to obtain more Civil War pension records?

Perhaps you even have a personal connection to one of the names listed above. Was one of the men an ancestor of yours, or someone who once lived in your house?

Whatever the reason, please consider making a donation

to sponsor ordering a set of records. If you chose an ancestor from the list—or another Civil War veteran from Canton in whom you have a personal interest—you will receive the benefit of having David Curtis order the forms, which you can then photocopy for your own family's genealogical archives.

These files would be tremendous research resources for

our museum archives and are in line with our by-laws to collect and preserve information about Canton residents.

Please take a moment to consider filling out the sponsorship form on the enclosed flier. Your contribution will help to preserve the community's heritage for future generations.

See the donation form on the enclosed flyer.

Watch for abstracts from William Burton Kelly's pension records to be published in the November/December issue of *Crossroads*.

Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction November 7

Mark your calendars now. *Note an important change in date*—This year's Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction will be held on *Saturday*, November 7.

Pot Luck Contributions

A-H Desserts
I-Q Salads
R-Z Side dishes (potatoes, vegetables, etc.)

Cherry Hill School
November 7
4 p.m.

RSVP to Bonnie Berg, (734) 495-0811. For complete details, see the enclosed flyer.

Sweet Corn Series Numbered Pieces Looking for Their Owners

Several of the collector, numbered editions of the Bartlett-Travis House in the Sweet Corn Series have not yet been purchased. The original list of those who had reserved the numbered houses has disappeared. If you are someone who is collecting one of the following numbers, please notify the museum staff at 397-0088 and arrange to pick yours up soon.

Unclaimed numbered editions of the Bartlett-Travis House:

#11, #14, #15
#17, #18, #19
#21, #23, #24

If these numbers are not claimed by October 15, they will be made available to the general public.

Readings/Book Signings for *Ghost Stories* Underway

Canton Historical Society's *Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton* is now available at several convenient locations:

Bookstores:

Little Professor on the Park
Main Street, Plymouth

Barnes & Noble
Haggerty Road, Northville

Borders
Crescent Blvd, Novi

Borders
Rochester Rd., Rochester

Elsewhere:

Canton Historical Society Museum
Canton Center Road, Canton

D&M Studios
Lilley Road, Canton

Canton Township Hall
Canton Center Rd., Canton

Dolly's Ye Olde Barber Shoppe
Main Street, Plymouth

There will be a number of opportunities to meet the author, Virginia Bailey Parker, and chat with her about the book. The following readings, signings, and interviews are currently scheduled.

Little Professor on the Park
Plymouth
Sat. Oct. 24
12 noon - 2 pm.

Barnes & Noble
Northville
Thurs., October 29
7:30 p.m.

Borders
Novi
Call the museum for date and time.

Borders
Rochester
Tues., Sept. 22
Tues., Oct. 20
7:30 p.m.

"Art in the Air"
WPON, 1460 AM.
October 2
1 p.m.

"Art in the Air," on October 2, will be a one-hour radio interview with Parker. In addition, her October 29th reading at Barnes & Noble in Northville is part of "Writers Harvest," a nationwide program to promote literacy and help alleviate hunger and poverty. A portion of the that day's proceeds from sales at Barnes & Noble bookstores across the nation will be donated to this worthy cause.

1998 Flea Market a huge success!

Thanks to everyone who rented booths, contributed sale items to the CHS table, or purchased food from the CHS concession stand. The popularity of the event has grown greatly, so this was the largest flea market fundraiser to date.

Plan now for next year's Flea Market—August 1999.

Canton Historical Society wishes to thank our friends who kindly contributed to the reception celebrating publication of

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

Boyer's Meat Processing, Inc.
Paul Denski, Jr. - Canton Waste Recycling, Inc.
The Kroger Company
Mesquite Creek Steakhouse
Moore Greenhouses
Palermo's Pizzeria/Restaurant
Bruce and Phyllis Patterson

We appreciate your generous support of our efforts to preserve our community's heritage.

Our Readers Respond . . .

Mysteries attract puzzle-solvers. We posed several questions to our readers, and we got answers.

In our July/August 1998 issue, we wondered what "schoolers" referred to in the 1860 census record. Janet Broschay responded that her office dictionary says a schooler is a pupil.

An interesting note here. Not all dictionaries give the same definitions, nor do they necessarily list the same words. Furthermore, as new words come into a language,

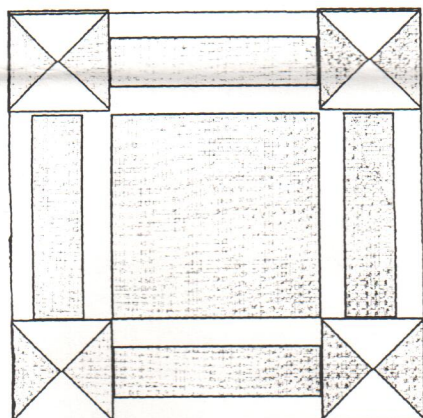


others are removed from the dictionary to make space.

So, the lesson is: when cleaning out closets, don't toss out the old dictionaries just because you have the newest edition on hand. And at

old book sales, you might think about purchasing an out-of date dictionary (yes,—to replace the very ones you may have pitched out years ago!) if you're interested in research.

Quilt Pattern Has Many Names



Quilt patterns are often known by several names, according to their origins. Note also, as the blocks at the right demonstrate, the appearance can change according to the way patterns and solids are placed in relation to one another. The arrows are prominent in A and B but not as evident in C.

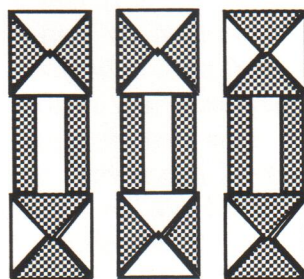
When we published the mystery pattern in the last issue, we received two calls CHS member Heloise Dunstan said it is called "Arrow—Aunt Martha." Virginia Presson, from Wayne Historical

Society, provided us with additional information. She cited a resource, *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns* by Barbara Brockman. The book lists the following names and sources for quilts that are similarly pieced together as the quilt at left:

Fireside Visitor - Clara Stone
Rope and Anchor - KC Star
1937

At the Square - Nancy Page
Arrow - Aunt Martha
Colorado's Arrowhead - Work
basket 1935

Betty's Choice - Needlecraft
Supply ca. 1938



A B C

*Thanks to all our readers
for responding!*

Looking Ahead

September

21: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

October

8: General meeting. "Garden Fairies," with Sally Beckman. Guests and the public are welcome. CHS Museum, 7:30 p.m.

19: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

November

7: Harvest Dinner and Pound Auction at Cherry Hill School. 4:00 p.m. RSVP to Bonnie Berg, 495-0811.

Note: This year, the Harvest Dinner is being held on a *Saturday*.

16: Board meeting. All members welcome. CHS Museum, 7:00 p.m.

December

5: Christmas Open House at the museum. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

January/February

Museum is closed

March

2: Museum reopens.

Garden Fairies *continued from p. 1*

children—and grownup children, too!" says Beckman."

Where do you find fairies? Beckman says they are under rosebushes and in the woods, or you find them in the gentle breeze that tickles your cheek. "They are love and mischief," she explains.

The meeting will be held at Canton Historical Museum, located at the corner of Canton Center Road and Heritage Drive (formerly Procter Road), beginning at 7:30 p.m. We encourage you to bring a friend. The public is welcome.



Board of Directors

Vice President: Bonnie Berg

Secretary: David Curtis

Treasurer: Charles Mott

Trustees: Evelyn Aksamit

Bob Boyer

Ronni Curtis

Marie Gentz

Phyllis Patterson

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Labels: Marta McCabe

Museum Displays: Evelyn Aksamit

Education: Marta McCabe

Publicity: Marie Gentz

Vital Statistics: Ruth Wiles

Historic Dist. Comm. Rep.: Virginia Parker

Dec. Craft Sale: Bonnie Berg

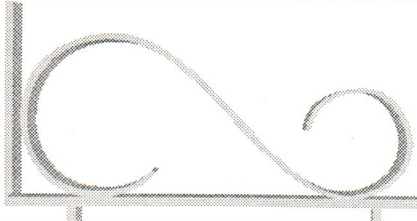
Harvest Dinner: Bonnie Berg

DuMouchelle: Marie Gentz

Liberty Fest: Carol Bodenmiller &

Bob Boyer

Flea Market: Ronni Curtis



Museum Hours

Tuesdays 1:00 to 3:00

Saturdays 1:00 to 4:00

(Closed January and February)

**Corner of Canton Center
and Proctor Roads**

Phone: (734) 397-0088

Membership Corner

Canton Historical Society welcomes new members. Annual dues include a year's subscription to the newsletter, *Crossroads of Canton*.

Individual: \$10.00

Family: \$20.00

Business: \$25.00

Life: \$100

Volunteers Needed

Canton Historical Society is looking for your support. We need help in the following areas:

- President
- Membership Chair
- Docent Chair
- Refreshment Chair

The Society contributes a great deal to quality of life in the township by preserving the community's heritage. We know everyone is busy, but we hope you can find a small amount of time to assist us.

*Deadline for the Nov.-Dec. issue:
Oct. 1, 1998*

Send to:
Virginia B. Parker, Editor
Crossroads of Canton
6269 Runnymede
Canton, MI 48187

Memory jogger: Deadlines for press releases, pictures, and articles is the **1st of even-numbered months.**



Canton Historical Society
P.O. Box 87362
Canton, MI 48187
(734) 397-0088

Canton Historical Museum

*Garden Fairies
October 8
October Meeting*