



Canton Historical Society News

Canton Historical Society Newsletter IV

July-August 1999

MUSEUM OPEN
TUESDAYS 1 TO 3PM
SATURDAYS 1 TO 4PM

Calendar of Events

July

1st Board Meeting

August

1st Flea Market

2nd Board Meeting

1st Newsletter deadline

September

1st Society Meeting, event to be announced.

1st DuMouchelle Antique

Appraisal Clinic

1st Board Meeting

October

1st Society Meeting, event to be announced.

1st Board Meeting

Election of Officers

November

1st Society Meeting, event to be announced.

1st Board Meeting & election

results.

Lyle F. Berg

Son of Vice President Bonnie Berg and the late Bart Berg, Past Society president, passed away June 2, 1999. Our condolences to the Berg family.

April Meeting Featuring the Truesdell Family Had Many Surprises



When Ralph Welton agreed to speak on the Truesdell family we never expected the surprises in store for us. Ralph and his wife Sharlene bought the old Ephraim Truesdell home. The home was in sad shape, about to be torn down, before they bought it.

While working to restore this home, Ralph began to learn about the family that had built the home in the late 1880's. He has done extensive research and gave us a moving account of the Truesdells.

Many of the Truesdell descendants were in attendance at our meeting, including Jack Truesdell

who has done an extensive genealogy study of his family.

Ralph told us of Ephraim taking the place of his father in the 4th Michigan Cavalry. It seems that his father Erastus, born in March of 1802, was caught up in the excitement of the time and joined the cavalry when he was in his sixties. The family thought that he would do better to stay home and tend the farm, so Ephraim was paid by his father to go in his place. Ephraim was wounded in the battle of Calfkiller Creek near McMinnville, Tennessee during the war. Ralph gave quite an account of what happened to Ephraim after

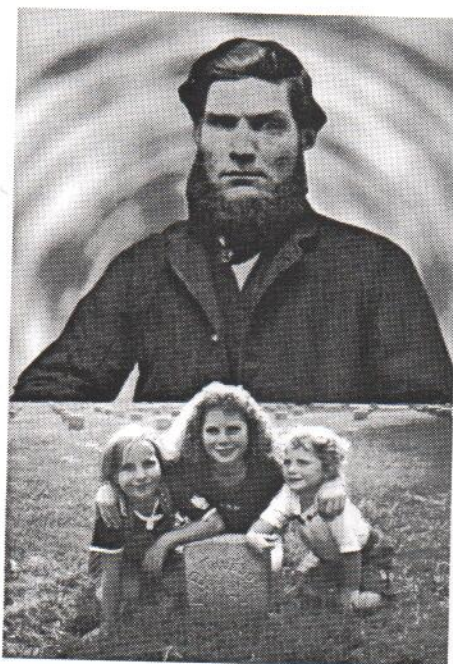
being wounded. The Confederate Soldiers counterattacked and he was left with other injured soldiers to fend for themselves in a small building, while the people who were helping them tried to outrun their counter attackers. Some ten days later they were discovered but at this time the hospitals were full because of another battle at Chickamauga, Georgia. Ephraim was put in a temporary hospital. He eventually recovered enough to be sent home to convalesce in October of 1863, but was called back to service in November of the same year.

After the Civil War, Ephraim was the Truesdell School superintendent and served longer than any other superintendent. Ralph remarked that it wasn't a glorious job. One of his duties was to make sure that they had a fire going at the school. Many of the school teachers lived at Ephraim's home on Haggerty Road.

Ralph had also found an old jacket in the attic and in the pocket was a notebook of people that owed Ephraim money.

Ephraim Truesdell died May 6, 1906 in Canton.

Lewis Bert Truesdell, Ephraim's brother, joined the 1st Michigan Cavalry about the same time Ephraim was called back from his



Amy Atwell center with her two sisters Bethany and Sarah on each side. Photo of Lewis Bert Truesdell in background courtesy State Archives of Michigan.

medical leave in November of 1863. Lewis was wounded on Sept. 18, 1864 at the battle of Opequan Creek and died three days later in Winchester, Virginia at age 32. Lewis has a headstone in Sheldon Cemetery, but is actually buried in Fredericksburg, Virginia. We wrote about this in our March-April newsletter but didn't state where he was buried. At our meeting Ralph was going to tell which Truesdell had a grave in Sheldon Cemetery but was actually buried somewhere else. To

Continued on page 7

Donations needed for Flea Market

It isn't too late to look in your attic or garage for items for our Flea Market on August 7. If you wish to donate please call **Ronni Curtis at 734-981-1475**. Make sure you attend the Flea Market and purchase an item or two for your garage or attic, to fill the empty space left from your donations. You can always bring these items back the following year if you're not happy with them and we shall be elated to sell them again.

You have until August 7th to donate to our Flea Market. We sure will appreciate your donation.

This edition of the *Canton* **Historical Society** *News*

was put together by C.D. Mott and edited by many people with intelligence.

For corrections, omissions or something to add, please call:

734-397-5495

Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Canton Historical Society. Please complete this form and send \$10.00 to: Canton Historical Society, P.O.Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

You don't have to be a lifelong resident to join, just an interest in history and the desire to preserve it.

Thank you

Happenings at Liberty Fest 99



Daltyn Stewart rides in custom car made by his father Jerry.



Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps played while the crowd watched from the hill.



Chaplan look alike makes balloons for the kids.



William and Nancy Hunt give Tisha a stroller ride through the park.



Custom cars could be seen all around the big pond in Heritage Park.



This patriotic pet was all dressed up for Liberty Fest 99.



Bill Sprengel, ace photographer and Ruth Wiles took 309 photos of Esther the pony with the children aboard. The film was donated to the society by the Canton Chamber of Commerce. Many thanks to the Chamber.

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Adopt a Civil War Soldier Program

By David Curtis

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following is what has been learned from the Pension records of Lewis Truesdell through the "Adopt a Civil War Soldier" program:

Lewis Bert Truesdell

Record of marriage shows Rev. W. B. Grow of Plymouth, Michigan on the 16th day of November 1854 at the home of Mark Stewart's, in the County of Wayne, joined in marriage Mr. Lewis B. Truesdell of Canton aged 25 years and Miss Eveline Stewart of Plymouth aged 17 years. Witnesses: R. B. Stewart of Canton and El J. Truesdell.

Lewis Truesdell enrolled for three years in Company K, First Michigan Cavalry, as Corporal, November 1863 at Geneva, Michigan. His age at the time was 31 years. On the return of the regiment for the month of September 1864, he is reported Sergeant, died of wounds at Winchester, Virginia September 27,

Affidavit of Simeon Meacham of Lawrence, Van Buren Co., Michigan stated "Lewis Truesdell was killed in the Battle of Opequan Creek, Virginia on or about the 18th day of September 1864 and while engaged in actual hostilities with the enemy and in the line of his duty he received a gun shot wound in the chest and died of said wound within two or three days thereafter."

A report from Surgeon General's Office dated April 24th 1865 stated that Sergeant Lewis Truesdell of Company K, of the 1st regiment Michigan Cavalry died September 21, 1864 at Cav. Corps Hospital, Winchester, Virginia of gunshot wound of the chest received September 18, 1864.

After the death of Lewis, Eveline Truesdell married David June on 24 May 1867 at Geneva, Van Buren Co., Michigan.

David June was appointed the legal guardian of Amos S., Deforest E., Daniel A., and Lewis C. Truesdell in 1869 at Paw Paw, Van Buren Co., Michigan.

Affidavit dated 26 November 1866 of Catharine Day of Van Buren Co., Michigan stated, she was present at the birth of a child of Lewis and Eveline Truesdell. The child was named Daniel A. Truesdell.

Affidavit dated 11 March 1869 Mary Shuart of the Township of Plymouth stated the birth of a child of Lewis and Eveline Truesdell who was named Lewis C. Truesdell. The child was born 14th day of April 1869 at the home of Mary Shuart.

Affidavit of Calista Truesdale of Wayne Co., Michigan dated April 1870, she stated that she was present at the birth of a child on the 14th day of February 1856 when Eveline Truesdale gave birth to Amos S. Truesdale.

Affidavit of Wealthy Page of Van Buren Co., Michigan dated 28 April 1870 that she was present at the birth of a child on the 16th day of June 1859 when the said Eveline Truesdale gave birth to Deforest E. Truesdale.

The name Truesdell / Truesdale as is spelled in the pension record.)

Adopt a Civil War Soldier

I would like to make a **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** contribution to obtain the pension records of:
(Please Check One)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams, David Leroy | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Moore, Amzi H. | 3rd MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson, George B. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Newton, Stephen | 3rd MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artley, John H. | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Packard, Winslow | 4th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bagley, Osceola | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Passage, John | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, George W. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pooler, Nelson | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, Murray S. | 1st MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinhart, Robert | 1st MI Lt. Art. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baker, Thomas J. | 4th MI Cav. | <input type="checkbox"/> Root, Roswell | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berdan, Dixon | 5th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Safford, Joseph | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronson, Edwin | 4th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens, Newell | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collier, Ortha | 100th OH Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoll, Jerome | 24th OH Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coykendale, Alfred | 3rd MI Cav. | <input type="checkbox"/> Suggitt, George | Western Shrpshtrs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Derby, Ezra E. | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Simeon | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duntley, Sylvanus R. | 3rd MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Thayer, William | 11th MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eddy, Willard | 2nd MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Ephraim | 4th MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eldred, George | Eng. & Mech. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Horace | 16th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairman, Sebree | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Truesdell, Lewis B. | 1st MI Cav. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardner, William | 9th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> Westfall, Orson | 24th MI Inf. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gillespie, James | 24th MI Inf. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hughs, Hiram | 24th MI Inf. | <input type="checkbox"/> No Preference | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huston, Benjamin W. | 23rd MI Inf. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard, Heil | 101st PA Inf. | | |

Amount of **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** donation:

\$ _____ \$25 _____ \$ _____

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

Thank you for your support

Canton's Country Schools

Compiled by Joan Cavell Palmer

Sold at the Museum on Canton Center Rd. This 445 page historical collection of photos and information dates back to the last century. This exciting book tells how the schools merged into the present school systems. Did you know Canton had the last operating one room school in Wayne County? Buy the book, you won't be disappointed.

Canton's
Country
Schools

© 1993

our surprise, Lewis's great, great, great granddaughter Amy Atwell had written an essay about Lewis Bert Truesdell and entered this in a newspaper contest. She brought a photograph of Lewis's grave site in Virginia to our meeting to show which Truesdell wasn't buried at Sheldon Cemetery.

This photograph is on page two, with Lewis Bert Truesdell in the background.

The second surprise is the name on the headstone in Virginia. It has his last name spelled Truesdale and not Truesdell. Dave Curtis looked up some of the Truesdell military records only to find that they spelled the name not only two, but three different ways. Truesdell, Truesdel and Truesdale were the three different spellings. Descendents in this area use the Truesdell spelling.

When I went to Sheldon Cemetery to photograph Lewis's headstone for this article, the name on the headstone was spelled Truesdel. The reason the names are not all spelled the same is a mystery.

The last surprise was when Ralph had told us about how he and Sharlene had worked to restore Ephraim Truesdell's home and what they had done. This was no small undertaking and I was sure that most of us would like to see the home, so at this point I told Ralph that "I didn't want to put him on the spot, but would he consider having our next meeting at his home". Now if that isn't putting someone on the spot in front of everyone at the meeting, then I don't know what is.

Anyhow, we did have our meeting at the Weltons and our society members thank them for doing such a

great job on the restoration of the Truesdell/ Welton home and for having us over to see it first hand. It was a very enjoyable evening.

From the feedback that I've received, everyone was impressed with how professionally the home has been restored.

Next time, Ralph, I promise to ask in advance.

I should also give recognition to a third brother, Horace Truesdell who served in the Civil War with the 16th Michigan Infantry and was wounded in action June 1864. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant May 1865, and 1st Lieutenant July 7th. He died in 1869 having never regained his strength after the war.

The DuMouchelle antique appraisal is coming up on September 11th

The antique appraisal this year will be by appointment. We will start at 10 am and end at 5 pm, so schedule early for the best times. Hopefully this will eliminate the long waiting. Remember the limit is three hand carried items.

The appraisals will be at the Cherry Hill School on the corner of Cherry Hill and Ridge Roads. If you plan to insure your antique, most insurance companies will want a written appraisal. If you just want to find out what your antique is worth then an oral appraisal will be in order.

If you would like to schedule an appointment please call: **Marie Gentz at 734-453-5297.**

It's never too early to schedule so don't be left out.

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

By Virginia Bailey Parker

Our best selling book. Almost sold out, so don't miss out on this important book.

**To order by mail, fill out the form below and mail to:
Canton Historical Society, P.O. Box 87362, Canton, MI 48187-0362**

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make a check for \$14.95 (Includes \$3.00 shipping and handling) Payable to:
CANTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Hist. Dist. Com. Rep. Ralph Welton
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Harvest Dinner Bonnie Berg and Ronni Curtis
DuMouchelle Marie Gentz and Phyllis Patterson
Liberty fest. Carol Bodenmiller and Robert Boyer
Flea Market Ronni Curtis and Jeannie Seifert

Cemetery Book

The Society has a *Cemetery Book* listing the people buried in the older cemeteries of Canton Township. If you are doing genealogy this book is a must. It can be purchased at Canton Historical Museum. The museum is located at the corner of Canton Center Rd. and Heritage Drive, (next to the new Fire Station No. 1). The hours are Tuesday 1 pm to 3 pm and Saturday from 1 pm until 4 pm.



Canton Center School

Canton Historical Society

P O Box 87362 • Canton, MI • 48187-0362