



Canton Historical Society News

Canton Historical Society Newsletter No XI

Sept- Oct 2000

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday 1 pm to 4 pm

Saturday 1 pm to 4 pm

Calendar of Events

September

18th Board Meeting 7:00 PM

October

7th DuMouchelle Appraisals

by appointment, Call **Marie Gentz**

At 734-453-5297

5th Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Nominations for Board Members

We need volunteers to serve on the board. Please come and join us.

19th **Jeannie Seifert** will show us how to preserve photos.

21st National Make a Difference

Day. Meet at Downer Cemetery at 9:00 AM we need your help.

November

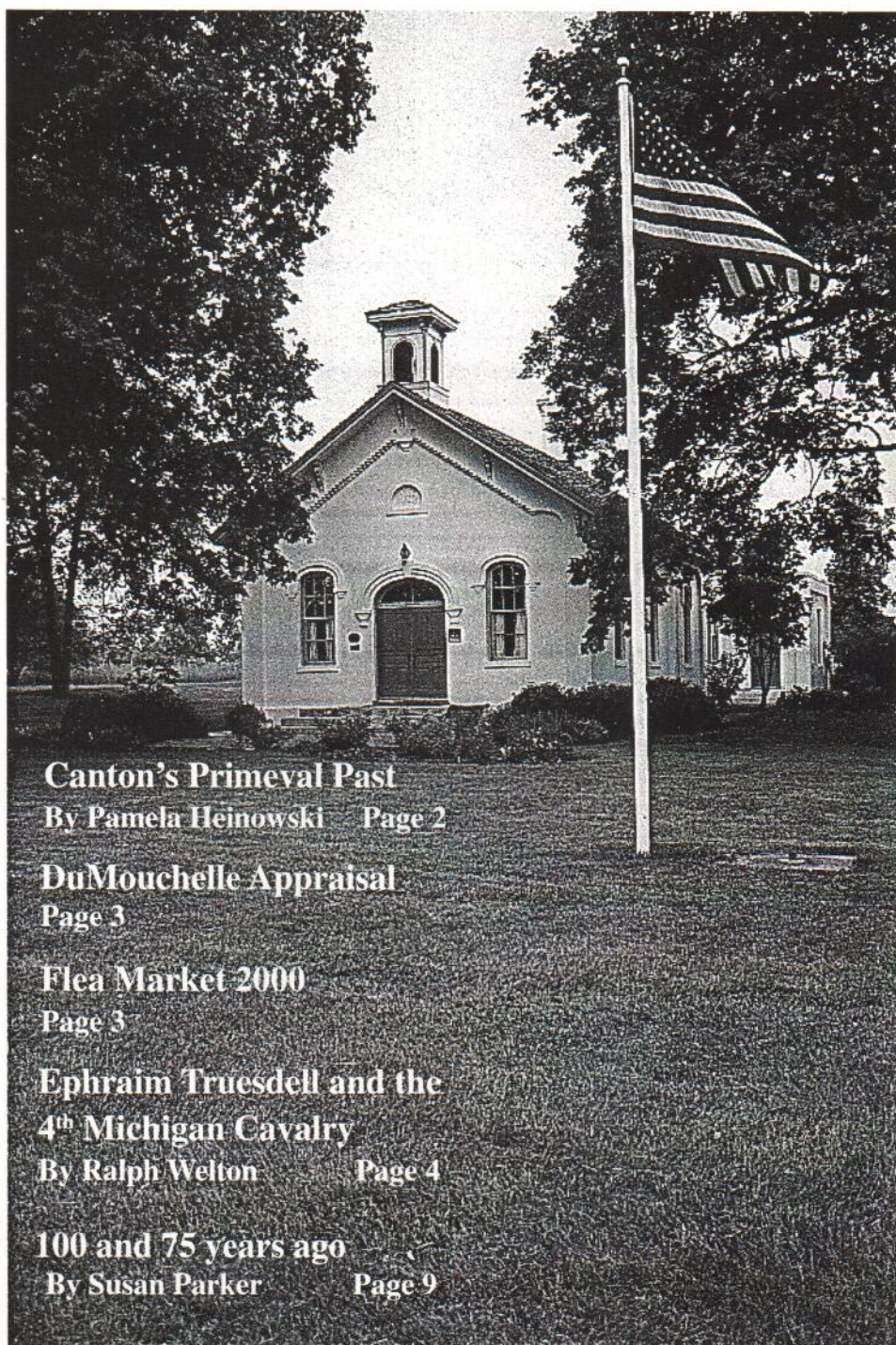
4th Harvest Dinner and Pound

Auction. 5:00 PM

19th Board Meeting 7:00 PM

Count ballots for Board Members

The Canton Historical Society was saddened to hear of the death of **Charlotte DuMouchelle**, our condolences to the DuMouchelle family.



Canton's Primeval Past

By Pamela Heinowski Page 2

DuMouchelle Appraisal

Page 3

Flea Market 2000

Page 3

Ephraim Truesdell and the 4th Michigan Cavalry

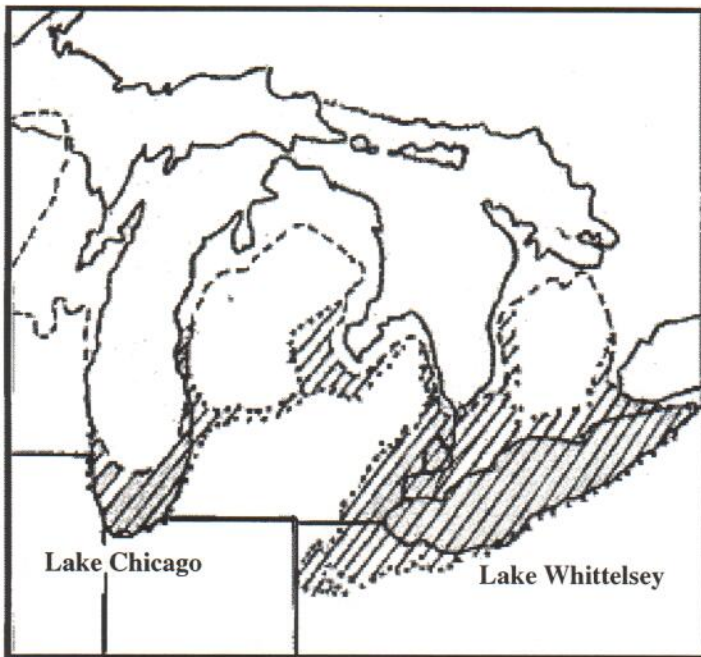
By Ralph Welton Page 4

100 and 75 years ago

By Susan Parker Page 9

Canton's Primeval Past

By Pamela Heinowski



The ancient Great Lakes about 13,000 years ago. Superimposed over today's geography. The striated area between the lakes is the ancient Grand River that drained into Lake Chicago, which in turn drained into the Mississippi River basin. North of the dotted line was the glacial area.

If you have ever wondered why Canton is so flat, and in many areas so swampy, you'll be happy to know that there are reasons buried in Canton's prehistoric past. Modern drainage systems have obscured the abundant wetlands, but it is not unusual to hear of wet basements and constantly working sump pumps in the township. During the past 20,000 years most of Michigan, northern Ohio and Indiana were covered with glaciers four different times. As the glaciers receded huge lakes formed around their

southern tips. These are our present Great Lakes. The shape of the lakes has not been static but molded to the glacial landforms so at different times took on different configurations. As the glaciers receded, what we now call Lake Erie covered what is now Canton and the Detroit Area. In other words, you are now living on an old lake bottom.

At various stages of the waxing and waning of the lake, geologists have applied different names that include Lake Maumee, Lake Alkona, Lake Whittelsey, Lake Warren, Lake Wayne, Lake Grasmere, Lake Lundy and finally Lake Erie. One of the times Canton was covered by water was about 13,000 years ago. The lake, Lake Whittelsey, was named after a 19th century Michigan geologist. The lake's shoreline was traced about 1840 by Bela Hubbard and mapped in a great United States geological survey in the early 20th century. The shore ran through the western part of Canton Township approximately along the route of what is now Ridge Road. This bit of higher land eventually made a high dry trail for Algonquin tribes moving north and south. Their trail was later adopted by settlers as an early route through Southeast Michigan's forestlands. Behind this ridge to the west of Ridge Road the landscape drops suddenly again. This area was a delta area for the lake, now profitably employed as rich farmland.

The northwest corner of the township shows a point at which the lake bed met the glacial ridge in striking relief. Hills rise up in and around Murray Hill Road. If you continue to follow the shoreline into Plymouth Township, hills continue to rise abruptly in a northeasterly direction along Ridge and Beck Roads. This glacial ridge is part of the Defiance Moraine. A moraine is an "endcap" of sorts, the furthest edge of a glacial formation in which a large collection of glacial

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

till, or debris, is deposited.

Evidence of the lake remains. Early settlers noted the swampy condition of the land. Large underwater lakes existed in aquifers in the western half of the township and the water table is exceptionally high. This writer has heard of at least one developer who frustrated himself by trying to pump out underground water to get rid of it and found that the earth is not that easy to tamper with. On the other hand, those who have well water have it in abundance. The soil along the old shoreline also provides evidence of the lake's existence, as it is quite sandy. Some interesting soil strata have been found during basement excavations in the western part of the township, showing sand, glacial till and vegetation layers. (See the exhibit in the Historical Society Museum.)

There is good reason to believe that the Great Lakes are continuing to recede as the lakes lose an inch or two in water level per year. This may not be all man's doing, but in part be the natural order of things. Although Michigan has retained its approximate present shape for the past 5,000 years the lakes are in a waning cycle. Don't be too surprised, if you hang around for several thousand years, if a glacier comes through Canton Township followed by a big flood in the form of a lake.

More information can be found on the topic of Michigan's glacial history in the following books:

Dorr, John A. and Donald F. Eschman, *The Geology of Michigan*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1970.

Kelly, R.W. and W. R. Farrand. *The Glacial Lakes Around Michigan*. Lansing: Department of Natural Resources, 1967, 1987.

Leverett, Frank and Frank B. Taylor. *The Pleistocene of Indiana and Michigan and the History of the Great Lakes*. United States Geological Survey, V. VIII. Washington D. C. : Government Printing Office, 1915

The DuMouchelle antique appraisal will be October 7th

The antique appraisal again this year will be by appointment. We will start at 10 am and end at 5 pm, so schedule early for the best times. Last year this eliminated the long lines. Some walk-ins will be accepted, however you may have to wait. 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 you antique, then you will want a written appraisal. If you're just curious about your antique, like the most of us, then an oral appraisal will be in order. \$9 oral and \$12 written.

To schedule your appointment, please call:
Marie Gentz at 734-453-5297

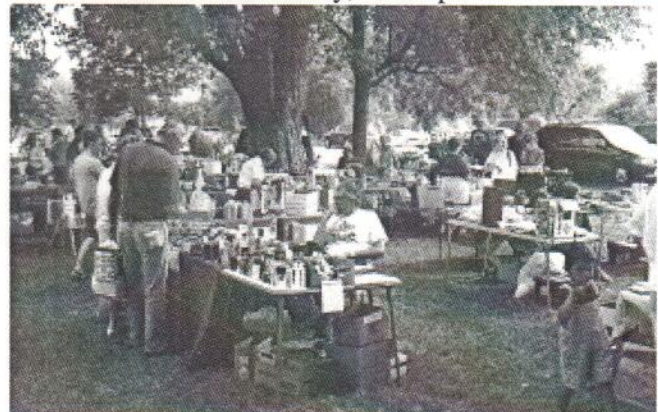
Call early for your appointment, don't be left out.

Once again we had a successful Flea Market

Many thanks to our business donors listed on the back page, also to all whom attended and volunteered to help. We had a great Flea Market, more successful than last year.

Ronni Curtis and David Curtis chaired this event and did a great job along with these volunteers; **Carol Bodenmiller, Gerry Bodenmiller, Kay Hartman-Kuck, Ken Kuck, Bonnie Berg, Ruth Wiles, Phyllis Patterson, Gene Kafila, Bob Boyer, Bill Sprengel, Marie Gentz, Marie Hauer, Mary Spence, Amy Atwell, Mary Sidick, Cathy Johnson, Marguerite ??, and John (J. J.) Shields.**

If I have forgotten anyone please forgive me, but do let me know because it is important to me and the society. After all without your help we wouldn't have a Canton Historical Society, we depend on each other.



Ephraim Truesdell and the 4th Michigan Cavalry

By Ralph Welton

Ephraim Truesdell was barely a week into his nineteenth year when news came to Canton about the humiliating defeat of McDowell's Union Army at Manassas Junction, Virginia. His older brother Horace flush with the patriotism that engendered the times, set out on the long, dusty journey to Detroit to enlist. Horace, along with other farm boys from Plymouth, Canton, and Nankin formed Company F of the 16th Michigan Infantry. By September 16th, the new Michigan regiment had joined McClellan's army on the Fairfax line in Virginia.

Battlefield reversals in 1861 and early 1862 soon inspired enlistment rallies across Michigan. Erastus Truesdell, the family patriarch and renown horse breeder, joined his neighbors at a July rally in Kellogg Park in Plymouth. Succumbing to the nationalistic fervor that swept the crowd, Erastus signed up for three years with Company D of the newly organized 4th Michigan Cavalry. Neighbors and family members clamored to convince the feisty sixty year-old that his place was on the farm. Logic eventually prevailed and on July 26th, Ephraim dutifully accepted the \$25 bounty in his father's stead. The 4th Michigan Cavalry spent the next two months encamped adjacent to Detroit's famous Elmwood Cemetery-"A very pleasant situation," where they had "...a view of the city," and could "...watch boats pass up and down the river. Finally, on September 28th, the 4th Michigan set out for Kentucky-with new sabres and revolver-rifles in tow.

Truesdell's Kentucky holiday was short-lived, however, as the 4th, under command of Colonel Robert H. G. Minty, was mobilized to pursue John Hunt Morgan's Confederate cavalry within a week of arriving at Louisville. Meeting up with Morgan at Stanford, Kentucky on October 14th, Minty's regiment, with a total compliment of 1233 officers and men, drove Morgan's 2500 troopers as far south as Crab Orchard - killing a lieutenant colonel and capturing twelve men. For Ephraim Truesdell, it was the first of "no less than sixty times" that he "was in action and under fire, where men were killed and wounded.

By the beginning of November 1862, the 4th Michigan was in Tennessee-where it would remain for most of the war. They scouted for Roscrans' Army of the

Cumberland throughout the Stones' River campaign and were actively engaged with the Confederates on all five days of the culminating battle. On the last day of the year, the cavalry division comprised of the 4th Michigan, 15th Pennsylvania, and 1st Tennessee (Union), led by General D. S. Stanley, were attacked by 2500 Cavalry under Joseph Wheeler and driven in on the reserves. Dismounted and facing a second attack, Stanley ordered a counter-attack that drove Wheeler's troopers from the field and captured four stands of colors. Truesdell and his Company D Cohorts spent New Year's Day crossing sabres with Confederate cavalry at LaVergne and Stewart's Creek on approach to Murfreesboro.

The 4th Michigan spent all of 1863 scouting and repelling Confederate raids in middle Tennessee. Although they operated out of Murfreesboro until April, they eventually returned to their permanent base in Nashville.

During the month of April, Truesdell was detailed with several men from Company E to confiscate fresh horses from surrounding homesteads. This new policy of "requisitioning" was indicative of the evolution of Union policy towards a total war mentality against the citizenry that would reach a crescendo the following year.

In a letter to his uncle in October, Lieutenant Potter of Truesdell's regiment admits: "I would hate to be a citizen living in this country at this time. We had to move fast and...consequence was (we) didn't draw any rations and 'Uncle Jeff' had to suffer. We lived well but I admit the thing went almost too far with some. A great many had been robbed outright of everything..."

Truesdell was on patrol constantly as both armies maneuvered in preparation for the battle at Chicamauga - sometimes sleeping in the saddle. On August 16th, they were ordered to intercept a Confederate force under Colonel Dibrell that was moving on Kingston, Tennessee. Colonel Minty, leading the brigade, arrived at Kingston the following afternoon and found it invested by Dibrell. Fierce skirmishing took place throughout the afternoon and the Confederates made a determined stand at Calkiller Creek, on the outskirts of Sparta.

Around five o'clock, Minty determined to dislodge the enemy with a dismounted charge - led by his own regiment. Midway across the open field, the 4th was met by a volley of musketry that cut down many of the Michiganians - including Ephraim Truesdell. As Truesdell lie writhing with a gaping wound to his right breast, Dibrell's men withdrew through Sparta and

regrouped.

Later that evening, as the numerically superior Confederates pressed a counter-attack, Minty's brigade beat a hasty retreat - leaving Truesdell and nine other wounded troopers to fend for themselves in a abandoned outbuilding. For nine days Truesdell and the others, administered to by the least wounded, awaited capture. On the tenth day they awoke to the clanking accoutrements of a Union cavalry patrol.

The battle of Chicamauga, which had been fought while Truedell clung to life in a backwoods shed, flooded Union hospitals across middle Tennessee. Forced to spend two weeks in a field hospital in McMinnville, Truesdell was finally transferred to a Nashville hospital. After thirty days of convalescing in Nashville, he was furloughed home.

Even a musket ball through the lung, however, couldn't earn Ephraim Truesdell a Christmas with his family. In November, he was ordered to rejoin his company in Nashville. At the same time the family gathered to relinquish Ephraim back to the 4th Michigan, they were forced to bid farewell to his brother Lewis, who had enlisted in 1st Michigan Cavalry - leaving three sons and a pregnant wife behind.

Immediately upon Truesdell's return, the 4th Michigan was sent south to scout in the Chattanooga area. Still hampered by the wound he'd received at Sparta, Truesdell was detailed as a courier between Generals U. S. Grant and Ambrose Burnside. By late January, however, he was back with his company on scout duty around Dalton, Ringgold, and Tunnel Hill, Georgia. Simultaneously, his brother Lewis was doing similar duty in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley with the 1st Michigan Cavalry.

By March of 1864, Ephraim Truesdell had been detailed to brigade headquarters, where he spent three months before returning to his regiment to participate in the Atlanta campaign. As part of Stanley's Cavalry Division, the 4th Michigan Cavalry led William Tecumseh Sherman's army from Chattanooga to Atlanta, sharing in every major battle against Joseph Johnston's strategic retreat through Georgia. Now armed with Spencer carbines, they also participated in Kilpatrick's raid around Atlanta from August 18th through the 22nd.

As Sherman embarked on his famous march to Savannah after the fall of Atlanta, The 4th stayed behind to wreak havoc in northern Georgia and Alabama. After a week of constant fighting they were able to capture and burn the Chattahoochee River Bridge near Sandtown.

On September 19th, after two weeks of daily clashes with the Confederate cavalry of Nathan Bedford Forrest, Truesdell and his companions lay in preparation for a move to Roswell, Georgia. A thousand miles away, his older brother Lewis lay dying on the bloody fields outside Winchester, Virginia. Shot from his horse in a late afternoon cavalry charge, Lewis would fight death in a field hospital for more than a week-surrendering on September 27th-never knowing that he'd outlived his newborn son by less than two weeks.

Within a fortnight of his brother's death, Ephraim was pressing northward with the rest of his regiment to thwart Confederate General John Bell Hood's advance toward Nashville. After the slaughter of Hood's army of Tennessee at Franklin in November, the 4th was ordered to Louisville to refit. By January, they were back in Alabama and participated in Wilson's raid through Alabama and Georgia. During this raid, Truesdell, now promoted to corporal, fought at Selma, Montgomery, Pleasant Hill, and Double Bridges-as well as the capture of Macon.

On May 7th, the 4th Michigan was ordered towards Irwinsville, Georgia to intercept a wagon train that was suspected of containing Confederate president Jefferson Davis. The regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel B. D. Pritchard, traveled down the south bank of the Ocmulgee River-sinking ferries and occupying fords along the route. After marching 51 miles in 24 hours, Pritchard was met by the lieutenant colonel of the First Wisconsin Cavalry, who had been trailing the Davis entourage and were heading by direct route to Irwinsville.

Being satisfied that the First Wisconsin had adequate force, Pritchard learned of a back trail from a local freedman and, hand-picking 128 of the freshest mounts, raced to cut off any possible retreat Davis might attempt when confronted by the Wisconsin troopers. At one o'clock in the morning, the Michigan detachment stumbled upon Davis' wagon train. Not wanting to risk confusion in the darkness, and unsure of the whereabouts of the First Wisconsin, the Michigan troops waited until daybreak. Meanwhile, Pritchard sent a 25-man detachment around to form a pincer movement.

At slightly after three in the morning, they approached the camp in force and captured the group without a shot. Within minutes of securing the area, shots rang out from the other side of camp. Pritchard

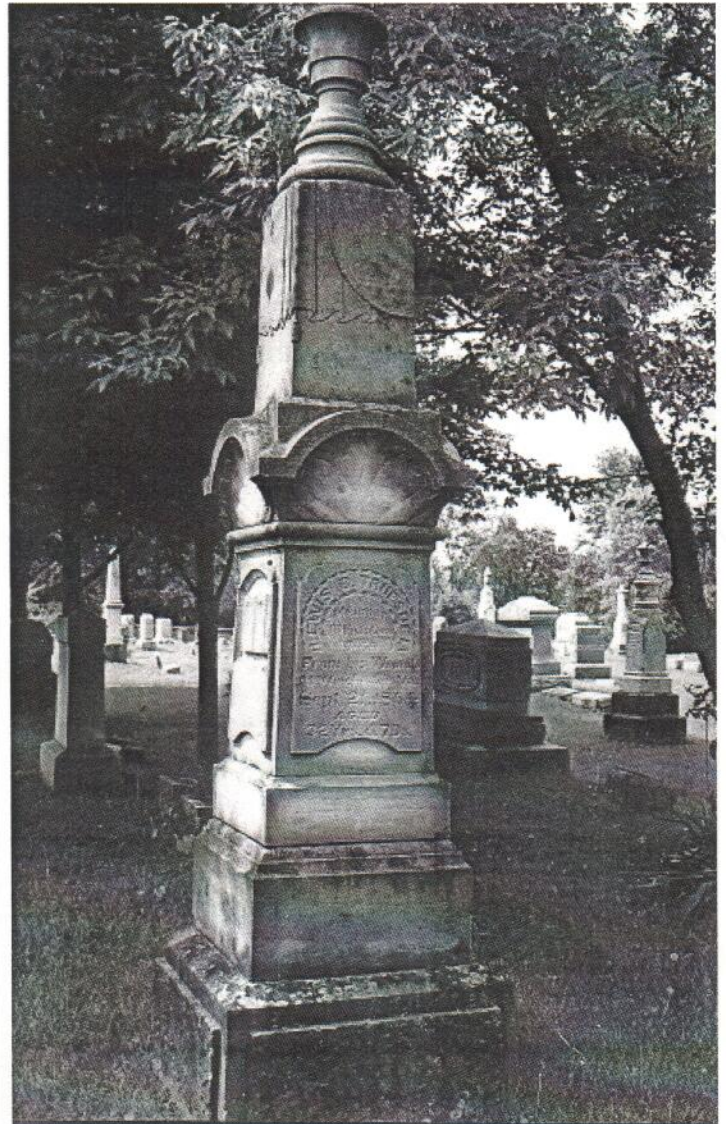
rushed to the area and, recognizing the sound of Union carbines coming from the opposite woods, ordered a cease fire-too late to prevent the death of two men and the wounding of eight others. The 2nd Wisconsin had arrived, and upon being challenged by the Michigan contingent, turned to escape-provoking a volley and returning fire. Though the affair had many interpretations, it is generally agreed that the sergeant in charge of the Wisconsin company thought he was being challenged by Davis' guard. In order to buy time for his troopers, he intimated that they, too, were Confederate. Only Pritchard's arrival prevented further calamity.

Although Truesdell's name is not on the official roster of 128 that executed the actual capture of Jefferson Davis, local newspaper accounts laud him as a participant. In his official report, Lieutenant Colonel Pritchard admits that "in addition to those chosen, several dozen accompanied the detachment unofficially". The truth about Ephraim Truesdell's involvement is lying in Sheldon Cemetery.

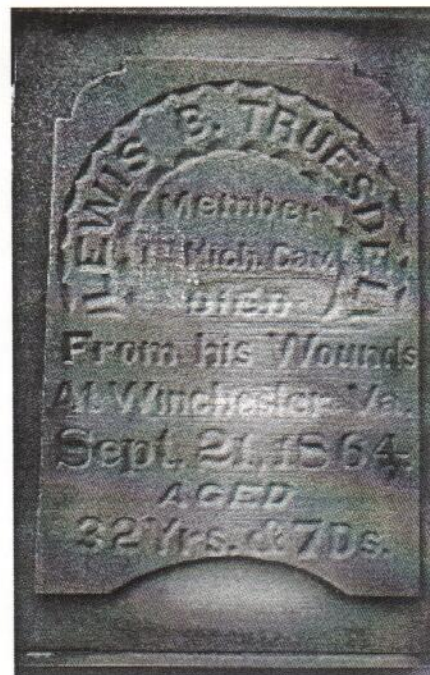
Despite the controversies surrounding the capture of Jefferson Davis, both regiments were celebrated as heroes. And, upon returning to Macon with their prize, they discovered that a hundred thousand dollar bounty had been posted for the Confederate president. It was decided that all the members involved in the excursion would share the reward-approximately \$203 per man. A detachment of the 4th Michigan then accompanied Davis, along with Clement C. Clay, Postmaster Reagan, and Howell Cobb, to Fortress Monroe.

Ephraim Truesdell mustered out with the rest of his regiment in Nashville on July 1st, 1865-nearly three years after taking his father's place in the ranks of the 4th Michigan Cavalry. His brother Horace, who spent the entire war in the east, would also be mustered out in July 1865. Plagued by several wounds, and weakened by disease, however, Horace would be dead in less than four years. A marker in Sheldon cemetery is dedicated to the memory of their brother Lewis, who will forever be a part of Virginia.

The lung destroyed by a Confederate musket ball in the Sequatchie Valley of Tennessee would eventually cause Ephraim Truesdell's death of pneumonia-but not before he spent 41 years as a successful Canton farmer, educator, and patriarch to a new generation of Truesdells.

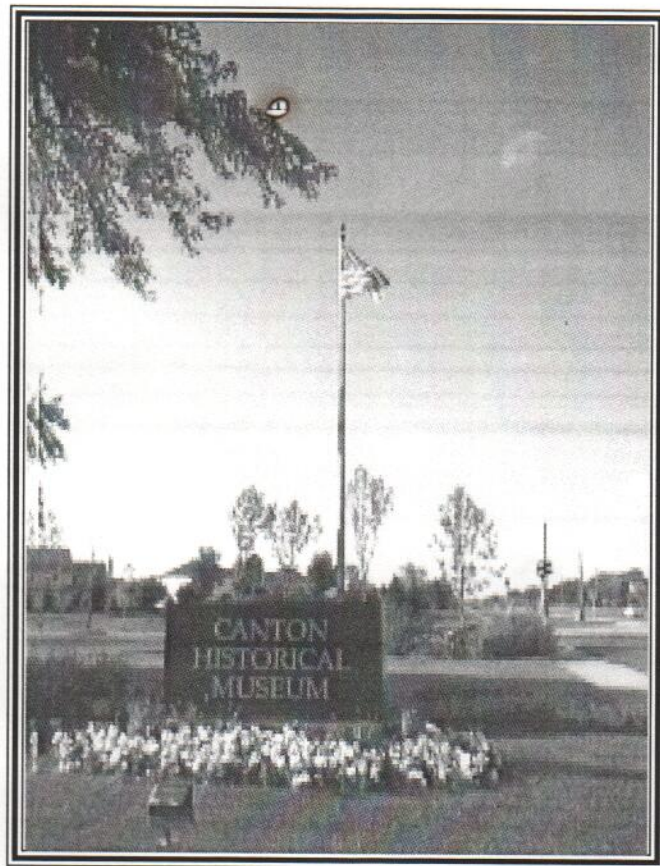


Truesdell grave site in Sheldon Cemetery



Lewis B. Truesdell tribute on the family gravestone.

National Make a Difference Day October 21



Historical Society members, let's make a difference. We will all meet at Downer Cemetery. At Haggerty Road and Old Michigan Ave. Bring a shovel to help prepare the ground and flower beds for winter. Starting time is 9 am Rain or Shine. Please help make a difference. Together we can do it.



Not sure what to do or were to go on October 21st at 9:00 am.? Then head over to Downer Cemetery and help your society members make a difference. We can really use the help so bring a friend or relative.

Canton in the Past

Researched by Susan Parker

100 Years ago

"The Plymouth Mail"

September 7, 1900

AA Tafft- Advertisement

Do you know that you can buy Ladies and children's muslin underwear cheaper than you can make it?

We quote you children's drawers from 12¢ to 25¢.

Ladies drawers from 25¢ to 75¢.

Corset covers from 15¢ to 50¢.

Ladies gowns from 50¢ to \$1.25.

Butter and eggs taken in exchange for goods.

October 12, 1900

"Local News"

Bassett and Son have just had their funeral car re-painted, retrimmed, and silver plated, so that it looks every bit as good as new. The work was done in Detroit.

§ § § § § §

Pasty Black was placed in the village lock-up Sunday by Marshall Weeks for being drunk. Justice Valentine Monday morning made it 30 days in the House of Correction or \$5. He paid.

§ § § § § §

Dr. G.A. Munch, the eminent Detroit specialist, will be at the Plymouth Hotel Friday, October 19. If you are not in perfect health call and see him. Consultation free. Cures guaranteed. No cure, no pay.

§ § § § § §

SOMETHING NEW

Fels Naptha soap Dissolves all kinds of grease.

TRY IT- 5¢ CAKE

§ § § § § §

Bedroom Suites as low as \$13.75

A good 4 foot curtain pole 2 for 25¢

A good wood sash curtain rod complete only 6¢

BASSET AND SON

FURNITURE DEALERS AND UNDERTAKERS

§ § § § § §

School Notes

We are now in the second month of the school year. Last week the teachers received their first pay after a lapse of three months and accordingly happy.

75 Years ago

"The Plymouth Mail"

October 2, 1925

DANCE AT CHERRY HILL

The Jolly Club will give a series of dances at Cherry Hill, starting Friday evening, October 2, and every two weeks thereafter. Stones famous orchestra will entertain. Everyone welcome

§ § § § § §

Today's Reflections

It's easy to put up a bluff in a big city, but in a small town everybody knows the size of your overdraft.

§ § § § § §

Canton Center School Notes

Canton Center school opened September 8th.

Misses Bernice Finnegan and Mabel Blackmore, Walter Krueger, Sherman Chute, Forest Truesdell: also Miss Winning of Detroit, were visitors at the school.

September 11, 1925

SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE

It is time to have your Pens and Pencils repaired and put in good order.

14k Gold Iridum-tipped pen points, No. 2, \$1.25; No. 3, \$1.50; No. 4 \$2.00, allowing 25¢ for old gold pens. Ink Reservoirs, 25¢.

§ § § § § §

Today's Reflections

Who ever expected to live to see the day when a full-grown girl's knees would get as sunburned as her face and hands.

What we need in the United States is a week-end that doesn't keep the undertakers busy the week following.

Some people are calling themselves "liberal" these days, when if the truth were known, they are so narrow they could poke their head through a knot hole without touching the sides.

§ § § § § §

Always Feel Good After Eating Chamberlain's Tablets are just what you need when you feel dull and stupid after eating. They stimulate the action of the stomach, liver and bowels, and the whole body responds to the renewal activity of these important organs.

Only 25¢

75 years ago continued

New Car Advertisement
Nash

"Leads the world in motor Cars"

\$1265 f.o.b. factory

The new **Special Six Sedan**. Four-wheel brakes, full balloon tires and wheels included at no extra cost!

§ § § § § §

NOTICE ALL EX-SERVICE MEN

There will be a meeting of the EX-SERVICE MEN'S CORPS at Village Hall MONDAY, SEPT. 14 7:00 P.M. We urge every man to turn out to this meeting. Tell all the boys and bring them with you. Help keep organized. **Let us not forget how we bunked together in time of war.**

{ This Ad donated by Blank Bros. Dept. Store }

September 18, 1925

Pick Up About Town

"It's a wise hen that gets her laying done before breakfast, so she'll have the rest of the day to herself."

"It looks to me like almost as many murders are being committed as would be if we had a constitutional amendment against it."

"It may be all right to burn your bridges behind you, but it's a good idea to first know how to swim."

October 2, 1925

Today's Reflections

It will soon be Halloween and time for popcorn and cider, if some way can be found to keep the tasty juice from working.



From the back of this house it looks like it has been pretty well stripped of all that was valuable.



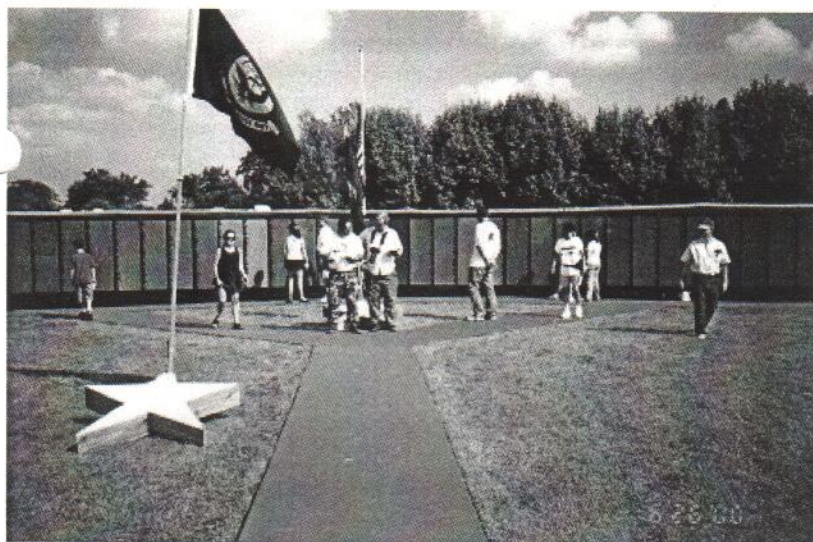
The construction in historic Cherry Hill has begun. We should see things happening rapidly now.



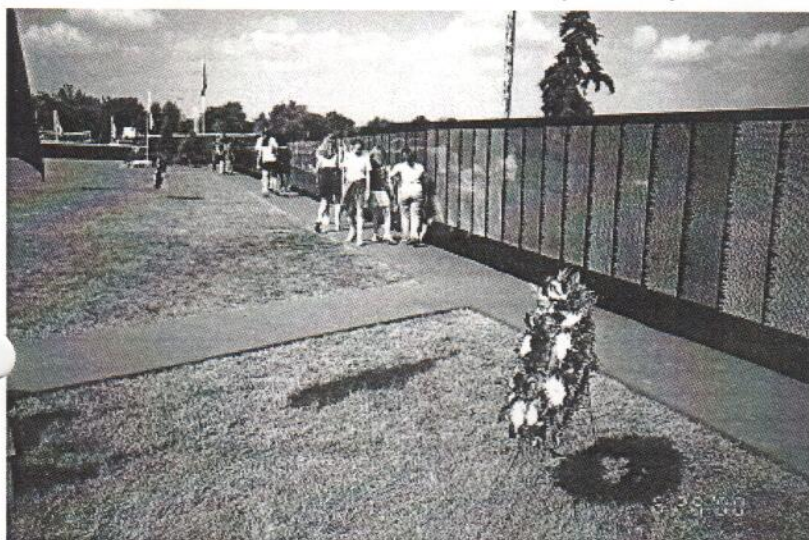
Looking across Cherry Hill and Ridge Roads at the small building that was the blacksmith shop in Cherry Hill Village.



These houses are to be torn down to make room for the sales office. For the 1300 new homes to be built in stages.



Thank's to Canton Township and the Viet Nam Veterans of America 528, the Memorial Wall was here for Liberty Fest.



The Memorial Wall is our way of remembering the brave men who gave their lives for our country.

These are the four Canton men memorialized on the Wall

Alfredo Guzzo

Richard Allen Larrick

Hugh Henry "Butch" Sarah

Harry Franklin Zalesney Jr.

This edition of the

Canton Historical Society News

was put together by C.D. Mott
with contributing writers;
David Curtis, Pam Heinowski,
Susan Parker and Ralph Welton

If you would like more information about
our society call:

Bonnie Berg.....734-495-0811

or

Ronni Curtis.....734-981-1475

Ghost Stories and Other Tales from Canton

By Virginia Bailey Parker

Our best selling book. So don't be left without one.

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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Harvest Dinner Bonnie Berg and Ronni Curtis
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Liberty fest. Kay Hartman-Kuck and Ken Kuck
Flea Market Ronni Curtis and David Curtis

Our Society Thanks These Flea Market Donors

Boston Market Boyer Meats CW'S Chicken and Ribs
Dunkin Donuts Ford Rd. Old Country Buffet Meijer
Canton Bread Company Central City Diner Dawn Donuts
Dunkin Donuts Mich. Ave Subway Mich. Ave. Tim Hortons



Canton Center School

Canton Historical Society

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