

Updates -

Geer and Chinnery

Our Geer Ancestors

While researching in Allen county Public Library last year we were able to review census records and other references and as a result obtained information that now allows us to identify siblings and accordingly confirming her parentage. Once we determined who Anna's siblings were we then had information identifying her parents and other ancestors.

Ann Eliza Geer

Ann Eliza Geer's ancestors has been elusive to say the least. Our first confirmation of information regarding Ann Eliza Geer last name came with locating a wedding announcement in the Rochester newspaper. Prior to this "find", we had several variant spellings for Ann's last name. This wedding notice also confirmed the marriage date of Andrew J. Heath & Ann Eliza Geer, 10 August 1836

ROCHESTER REPUBLICAN

MARRIED

"On Thursday evening 10th just by the Rev. Mr. Church, Andrew J. Heath of Geneseo, to Miss Ann Eliza Gear, of this city.¹"

This brief announcement in the Rochester Republican was the first confirmation of Ann² Eliza's last name and the date of their marriage.

1860 CENSUS

The 1860 census record for the Andrew J. Heath listed along with their offspring the name Dorcas Geer age 76 and her bp of NY. Our conclusion here being that Dorcas was Ann's mother. Though later in the 1880 census we found a conflict whereby the census showed bp for Ann's parents as being both in PA.

ALICE CHINNERY NOTES:

Alice's notes indicated her great grandmother as being Ann Geu and indicating several other spelling variations of Greer, Greur, Gear.

{cont'd - Geer on Page 2}

¹ Rochester Republican, November 15, 1826

² Is it Ann or Anna? This marriage announcement indicated "Ann" Subsequent census records showed "Ann" and later "Anna". She signed the probate petition for husband as Ann E. Heath. While her death record showed it as being "Anna" E. Heath.

CHINNERY MIGRATIONS

"What Happened to the Chinnery Sisters"

NOW WE KNOW (3 of the 4)-

"What Happened to the Chinnery Sisters", was one of the stories to appear in the first issue of "The Four Drive", October 1996. In addition to wondering what happened to the four girls we also lacked information regarding the location in Canada that the family immigrated to during the early 1840's. "

Recently I received an e-mail from Barbara Millar - Dear Don,

I just wanted to write and tell you your Mary Anne Eplett³ was the sister of my grt.grt. grandmother Elizabeth Eplett, whose father Joseph [watchmaker] and mother Charlotte Gready whose mother was Mary Giner.

I would love to hear from you.

Barbara Millar

This e-mail was the first of many exchanges of information. Barbara provided Canadian 1851 Census information listing the James Chinnery family in Ontario. As Barbara exclaimed, "we have opened the flood gates."

1851 Canadian Census

1851 Thurlow Twp, Hastings, Ontario

1841	Chinnery	James	M	46	M	England	Baptist	farmer
1842	Chinnery	Lucy	F	46	M	England	Baptist	
1843	Chinnery	Eli	M	19	S	England	Baptist	lbr
1844	Chinnery	Maria	F	14	S	England	Baptist	
1845	Chinnery	Kebell ⁴	M	11	S	England	Baptist	
1846	Chinnery	Anthony	M	7	S	Canada	Baptist	
1847	Chinnery	Alfred	M	5	S	Canada	Baptist	
1848	Chinnery	Isaac	M	1	S	Canada	Baptist	

[residence:]Conc. 3, Lot 22, Thurlow Twp, Hastings Co., Ontario

The names, ages and birth places are consistent with previously known information. We knew that the three youngest boys were born in Canada. While this census information does not confirm actual birth place in Canada, until we know different we are concluding that they were born in Belleville, Ontario. Belleville being the location of the above reference. {Cont'd Page 3 ff}

³ Mary Anne Eplett - Wife of Eli Chinnery & great great grandparents of editor.

⁴ Full name was Henry Keeble Chinnery. He was commonly called Cabel.

GEER - (cont'd from page 1)

AUGUST GINGER:

August Ginger is the Historian for the Geer Family Association and has been very helpful with our family research. Quite sometime ago August sent the following information to your editor.

"In looking for something else (this is how all great connections are made), I came across Lemuel Geer who mar. Darkes (prob. Dorcas) Brontzon (who knows what true spelling might be on this one) on 12 July 1807 at St. Peter's Church, New Rhinebeck, Town of Sharon - pg. 88 of Schohaire Co.. NY Records searched by researcher Mrs. Gael Rathburn, 1 Knox Ave., Johnston, NY 12095, with one possible(probably) son of theirs being Erastus C. Geer, b. ca. 1817 NY, s/o of Lemuel and Dorcas of NY (see MI census for Flint, Genesee County. Now Anna Eliza Geer was born in same time era and Dorcas came to MI - I think you should scour Schohaire Co. records -- esp. New Rhinebeck, Town of Sharon and environs, cemetery records and esp. Brontzan family stuff * as many spelling variations as you can imagine). I won't be doing any additional research on this my self, but I believe you can take this and run with it. though. Lemuel is "UNplaced", I believe him to be a son of #107 on page 371 in the Geer Genealogy, 1923 book. Warmly and good luck, Ginger M. August." [Note: This would be 107-3 in Geer terminology]

**ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CENSUS SEARCHES-**

Lorenzo Geer & Erastus Geer

We found both Lorenzo and Erastus in the 1850 Census living in Genesee County of Michigan. The entry for Lorenzo was a very enlightening one. Included with the family was an adult female Dorcius Geere age 66 bp of NY. Despite the spelling variations we concluded this entry was Lorenzo's mother - aka Dorcas Geer. We had previously found Dorcas living with the Heath's in the 1860 Census of Macomb County. This entry gave her age as 76. As a result we can conclude that Lorenzo and Anna Eliza are siblings. Erastus was living in Genesee County in 1850 and was found in the 1860 Census in Macomb County. Erastus died in Macomb County in 1871. We also know that the Andrew J. Heath (Anna Eliza) family first moved to Lapeer County from New York and subsequently to Macomb County as we found them listed there for the 1860,1870 and 1880 Census⁵

While we don't have a definite confirmation that Erastus was a also sibling, the preponderance of evidence - bp NY, and similar migration patterns leads us to conclude that he too is a sibling to Lorenzo and Anna Eliza.

Continuing with the previously reported marriage of Lemuel Geer and Dorcas Brontzon in NY and now three children Anna Eliza, Erastus, and Lorenzo all born in the State of New York we can put together the ancestry of Anna Eliza Geer. [see the following Ahnentafel Chart].

AHNENTAFEL CHART⁶

1 Anna Eliza Geer. Born on 16 Jan 1816 in NY. Anna Eliza died in Richmond, Macomb Co., MI on 4 Mar 1900; she was 84. Buried in Mar 1900 in New Baltimore, Macomb Co., MI. On 10 Nov 1836 when Anna Eliza was 20, she married Andrew J. Heath, in Rochester, Monroe Co., NY.

2 Lemuel Geer. On 12 Jul 1807 Lemuel married Dorcas Brontzon, in New Rhinebeck, Town Of Sharon, NY.

3 Dorcas Brontzon. Born abt 1784 in NY⁷.

⁵ Census Information is shown for all on page 7 of this issue.

⁶ Ahnentafel: Briefly the individual starts at "n". The father = 2n and the mother is 2n + 1.

⁷ This birthplace for Dorcas taken from a Census Record. It could be PA or NY.

4 Lemuel Geer. Born on 28 Jun 1750 in Preston Twp., New London Co., CT. Lemuel died in NY.

8 Christopher Geer. Born on 19 Dec 1706 in Preston, New London Co., CT. Christopher died on 1 Apr 1795; he was 88. On 3 Jun 1747 when Christopher was 40, he married Prudence Weakley.

9 Prudence Weakley. Born in Preston, New London Co., CT.

16 Daniel Geer. Born abt 1673 in Preston, New London Co., CT. Daniel died in Preston, New London Co., CT on 2 Oct 1749; he was 76. Bef 1700 when Daniel was 27, he married Hannah.

17 Hannah. Hannah died bef 24 Oct 1728.

32 George Geer. George married Sarah Allyn.

33 Sarah Allyn.

GEER CENSUS NOTES -----

Found in 1850 Census for Flint, Genesee Co.
Last name in this census spelled Geere.
Page 208 GEFL = Genesee Flint.
Erastus C. Geere age 33 Physician bp NY
Evetine age 36 bp NY
Julia C. Hadden age 15 bp MI
Symtha Hadden age 11 bp MI
Rosalia Geere age 2 bp MI

Wonder if the Hadden girls could be daughters of Evetine from previous marriage.? ??????????

1850 Census GEEG for East Genesee
Lorenzo Geere age 27 m Farmer bp NY \$500
Almisa age 19 f
Almonds age 2 m bp MI
Nester age 10/12 m bp MI
Dorcious Geere age 66 f bp NY
lines 755/759

1860 Michigan Census page 484 Macomb County-
Chesterfield Twp
New Baltimore
Erastus Geer age 42 m Doctor (\$600/100)
Evetine age 45 bp NY
Rosilla age 11 bp MI

1820 Federal Census NY Gene 026 Batavia
Lemuel Geer 11xx11-2--1-II II1
1 male < 10 female 1 Erastus & Anna
1 male 10-16 female 0 George?
0 male 16-18 female 2 ??????
0 male 19-45 female 1 Dorcas
1 male > 45 female Lemuel

Above does not appear to match known information
females 16-18 ???
Son Lorenzo not born yet

JAMES A. CHINNERY & FAMILY**First Generation**

1. James A. Chinnery. Born in Mar 1806 in Ipswich, Suffolk Co., England. James A. died in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI on 25 Mar 1883; he was 77. Buried in Mar 1883 in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI. On 15 May 1826 when James A. was 20, he first married Lucy Lambert, daughter of _____ Lambert & Lucy Keeble, in Grundisburgh, Suffolk Co., England. Born abt 1805 in Grundisburgh, Suffolk Co., England. Lucy died in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI on 15 Feb 1880; she was 75.

They had the following children:

- | | | |
|-----------|-------|---------------------------|
| 2 | i. | Eliza (1827-) |
| 3 | ii. | Emma (1829-) |
| 4 | iii. | Lucy (1831-) |
| 5 | iv. | Eli (1833-1914) |
| 6 | v. | Maria (1836-) |
| 7 | vi. | Henry Keeble (1840-1886) |
| 8 | vii. | John Anthony (1845-~1884) |
| 9 | viii. | Alfred (1848-1919) |
| 10 | ix. | Isaac (1851-) |

On 24 Oct 1880 when James A. was 74, he second married Elizabeth Pittard, in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI.

Second Generation

2. Eliza Chinnery. Born on 15 May 1827 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England. On 14 Sep 1846 when Eliza was 19, she married James Wickett, son of John Wickett & Nancy Weaver, in Victoria District Ontario. Born in 1823 in Davidson, Cornwall, England. James died in 1902; he was 79.

They had the following children:

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| i. | Mary Janet (1847-) |
| ii. | Eliza Ann (1850-) |
| iii. | Mary (1855-) |
| iv. | James Alfred (1858-) |
| v. | Annie Marie (1861-) |
| vi. | Thomas (1863-) |
| vii. | Rosetta (1870-) |

3. Emma Chinnery. Born on 24 May 1829 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England.

4. Lucy Chinnery. Born on 6 Nov 1831 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England. On 4 Jan 1849 when Lucy was 17, she married John Davidson Watson, in Victoria District Ontario. Born ca 1822.

There children included (per 1851 Census, may be others):

- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| i. | William |
| ii. | James M. (ca1850-) |

5. Eli Chinnery. Born on 9 Jun 1833 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England. Eli died in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI on 7 Oct 1914; he was 81. Buried in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI. Abt 1856 when Eli was 22, he married Mary Anne Eplett, daughter of Joseph Eplett & Charlotte Creeday, in Canada. Born on 31 Jan 1838 in Great Torrington, Devon Co, England. Mary Anne died in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI on 22 Oct 1904; she was 66. They had the following children:

- | | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| i. | Salina (~1857-1875) |
| ii. | Ernest J (1861-1935) |
| iii. | Edward E. (1869-1944) |
| iv. | Ida Isabella (1866-1868) |
| v. | Edith Isabella (1869-1869) |
| vi. | Albert Henry (1872-1951) |
| vii. | Frederic (1875-) |
| viii. | Louis F. (1875-1929) |
| ix. | Malcolm W. (1878-1944) |

6. Maria Chinnery. Born on 3 Jun 1836 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England. On 10 Mar 1857 when Maria was 20, she married Henry Wickett, son of John Wickett & Nancy Weaver, in Victoria District Ontario. Born in 1834.

They had the following children:

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| i. | Willis J. (~1858-) |
| ii. | Henry D. (~1861-) |
| iii. | George G. (~1863-) |
| iv. | Lillian (1865-1919) |
| v. | Wesley W. (~1868-) |
| vi. | Charles C. (~1871-) |
| vii. | Richard W. (~1879-) |

7. Henry Keeble Chinnery. Born on 30 Sep 1840 in Otley, Suffolk Co., England. Henry Keeble died in Mason Co., MI on 26 Oct 1886; he was 46. Buried in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI. Henry Keeble first married Clystia Stuyvissant. Born in NY. They had one child:

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| i. | Charles Adelbert (1864-1965) |
|----|------------------------------|

On 18 Jul 1868 when Henry Keeble was 27, he second married Albina S. Hayden, daughter of Walter S. Hayden & Ira M. Hayden, in Decatur Twp, Van Buren Co., MI. Born abt 1840 in Chagin Falls, OH. They had one child:

- | | |
|----|---------------|
| i. | Anna (~1870-) |
|----|---------------|

On 16 Sep 1876 when Henry Keeble was 35, he third married Cassie N. Dailey, daughter of James Daily, in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI. Born abt 1854.

8. John Anthony Chinnery. Born in 1845 in CANADA WEST. John Anthony died in Nebraska abt 1884; he was 39. On 4 Jan 1868 when John Anthony was 23, he married Sarah J Flora, daughter of James Calvin Flora & Paulina Briggs, in Amber Twp., Mason Co., MI. Born abt 1853 in Bourbon, Marshall Co., IN. They had the following children:

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| i. | Pauline M. (1868-) |
| ii. | James A. (1870-) |
| iii. | Lucy B. (1874-) |
| iv. | Chrisla D (1875-) |
| v. | Albert D. (1877-) |
| vi. | Addie L. (1879-1879) |
| vii. | Willie (~1884-) |

9. Alfred Chinnery. Born in Jul 1848 in Canada. Alfred died in 1919; he was 70. Alfred married Theresa W. Kern, daughter of George Kern & Laura Art. Born in Jun 1848 in NY. Theresa W. died in Decatur Village, Van Buren Co., MI on 11 Jun 1904; she was 56.

10. Isaac Chinnery. Born in Apr 1851 in Canada. On 6 Nov 1873 when Isaac was 22, he married Mary Looker, in Van Buren Co., MI. Born in May 1853 in OH. Mary died in 1918; she was 64. They had one child:

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| i. | John Henry (1874-1961) |
|----|------------------------|

CHINNERY (continued from column 2 page 1)

Only one of the four daughters is listed in this census record of 1851. The eldest daughter Eliza married a James Wickett September 14, 1846 in Belleville area. Maria subsequently married Henry Wickett, a brother to James Wickett. Thus this accounts for another of the four sisters. Since two of the sisters came to Canada we surmised the other two, Emma and Lucy did also. In 1851 Lucy would have been 20 and Emma 22 thus quite probably married by the time of 1851 census. Further research led us to the marriage of Lucy Chinnery to John Davidson Watson in Victoria District of Ontario.

James Wickett and Eliza Chinnery

James and Eliza were married September 14, 1846 in Victoria District of Ontario.⁸ The 1901 Canadian Census reports that James and Eliza were living in Thurlow, Hastings County. By this time they were empty nesters and no children listed living them. This same census gives us important information regarding the immigration to Canada. James immigrated in 1840 while Eliza is shown to be 1842. This latter date is very important information for us as it tells us the Chinnery family left England in 1842. An email from Randy Wickett (see page xxx) gives us information that James and Eliza were pillars of the community and very active in their church.

Victoria District = Hastings County

In May of 1838 the Victoria District was separated from the Midland District and included the present county of Hastings. Despite being officially created in 1838, the Victoria District would not be proclaimed until a Court House and jail were constructed and officials appointed. The Victoria District was therefore not proclaimed a separate district until 1839. Effective October 15th, 1839 marriage returns for the County of Hastings were required to be returned to the clerk of the Peace in the District town of Belleville.

Returns were sent to the Clerk from the Clergy who performed the marriages, with the exception of Anglican and Roman Catholic ministers. By January of 1850 all Districts were abolished and the Victoria District became Hastings County.



Henry Wickett and Maria Chinnery

Information regarding this marriage and family could not be found in our Canadian sources. Henry Wickett was a common name and we see many references but none

appeared to coincide with known family information. If we review the known information: James Chinnery immigrated to Michigan in 1856; Maria would have been 19 or 20 at this time - old enough to have been married in Canada. I began to wonder whether Maria went to Michigan with the family and Henry went along or followed? Currently researchers have free access on line for 1870 census and 1880 census. I searched these sources and found an entry for Henry Wickett family in 1880 Census and a Henry Wicket in the 1870 Census. Both records showing the location as Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan. I continued my search on the LDS web site and found the marriage⁹ of Maria Chinery to Henry Wiskett. The misspelling of Henry's last name thus accounts for previous misses, and only one "n" in Chinnery for Maria was a common spelling variation. This marriage record shows the date as being 10 March 1857 in Victoria District, Ontario. Our previous research showed the James Chinnery family first immigrating to this same area of Van Buren County before relocating to Mason county circa 1865. From the census records for 1900 we found that the family immigrated to Van Buren County in 1856. Apparently Maria stayed behind with her brother Eli as we know that Eli and Mary Ann had a daughter Salina born 1857 in Canada. The 1910 Census for Eli indicates immigration as occurring in 1858. Future research here would be to find 1900 census record for Henry and Maria and determine immigration date for them. Naturalization records would also be of interest.

CENSUS RECORD 1870

Name	age	sex	race	occup.	Value	bp
Henry Wickett	36	m	w	Farmer	2000/150	England
Maria	32	f	w	Keep House		England
Willis	12	m	w			Mich
H Eston	9	m	w			Mich
Geo	7	m	w			Mich
Lillie	4	f	w			Mich
Weston	2	m	w			Mich

The 1880 Census has family listing as the above with two additional sons Charles C & Richard W. Daughter was listed as Lillie in both census records but from Susan Cockerll we know her full name to be Lillian.

Hastings County, Ontario - Sydney & Thurlow Townships
1885



⁸ LDS - IGI Record M585601 Film #1030054 V.23.

⁹ LDS - IGI Record M585601 Film #1030054 V.23.

John Davidson Watson and Lucy Chinnery

Searching the International Genealogical Index (LDS - familysearch.org) we found the marriage¹⁰ of a Lucey Chinnery and John Davidson Watson on January 4, 1849 in Victoria District, Ontario. While we haven't found any other confirming information we have every expectation that this is one of the Chinnery siblings - time and place are appropriate.

1851 Census - Thurlow Township, Hastings

DIV/PG/LN	Name	sex	age	st.	religion	occupation
1/36/25	Watson, John	M	29	M	Episcopal	labourer
1/36/26	Watson, Lucy	F	20	M	Episcopal	
1/36/27	Watson, William I.	M	3	S	Episcopal	
1/36/28	Watson, James	M	1	S	Episcopal	

The above census record is the latest information we have regarding this family.

INTRODUCING - Cousins

Barbara Millar

I am the great great granddaughter of Elizabeth Eplett and sister of Mary Anne Eplett wife of Eli Chinnery. While trying to find the Eplett siblings¹¹, I located Don's LDS family tree and the rest is history. Living in Ontario has given me a unique advantage for searching, as I still have family ties in Belleville, Ontario. This summer I hope to glean more information on the Wickett, Chinnery and Eplett families. I am a proud single mother of a 14 year old and we live in Toronto. I have always had a passion for history and genealogy, the latter from my grandmother who took great pride in her family and it's roots. bjm

Barbara⁶, Ruth Isobel⁵ Grant, Gladys Bernice Irene⁴ Redick, Martha Emily³ Hick, Elizabeth² Eplett, Joseph¹ }

Susan Cocker II

Susan lives in Malden, MA (Greater Boston) working as a freelance technical writer in the computer industry. She is unmarried. Susan is descended from James and Lucy (Lambert) Chinnery through their daughter Maria. She is great great granddaughter of Maria Chinnery and Henry Wickett through their daughter Lillian.

RANDY WICKETT

I am descended from Emmanuel Wickett who was a brother of James and Henry through Emanuel's son William who was my great grandfather. The information I have is from my grandfather's first cousin John Burton Sills who compiled it mostly from memory in 1979. The sons of John Wickett and Nancy Weaver were James, Henry, Richard, Daniel, John, Alfred, Thomas and Emmanuel. The older boys came to Ontario before the rest of the family which came over in about 1842.

Bert says, "that the wives of James and Henry were sister, Eliza and Maria Chinnery. He says the Richard's first wife Ann died and his second wife was named Emma. James was born in 1823 in died at age 79 accord to his

¹⁰ LDS - Batch M585601 Film #1030054 V.23

¹¹ Another Good example of the importance of sibling research - see "The Four Drive" - Vol. I, No. 4, page 2. [dgc]

obituary." It says he was married about 54 years to Eliza so they must have been married around 1848 when Eliza would have been 21 according to your records. Their sons were John, Eli, Thomas, and George. According to Bert there is or was a copper plaque on the rear wall of the sanctuary of the Holloway Street Methodist Church in Belleville that reads

TO THE GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES AND ELIZA WICKETT, CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE HOLLOWAY STREET METHODIST CHURCH. DEDICATED IN THE 76TH YEAR OF THIS CHURCH.

The only information I have about Henry is that he was a farmer around Foxborough.

James was clearly a pillar of the community and was on city council in 1878 but did not run for re-election. His obituary says the he participated in the construction of many of the buildings in and around Belleville. I found a census once with he and Eliza listed at Wickett rather than Wickett but I can't locate the link right now and I have to get ready to go to work.

Best Regards
Randy Wickett

SUMMATION

We now know the location in Ontario where the Chinnery's settled before immigrating on to Michigan in 1856(&'58). We believe that Eli and Mary Anne didn't immigrate until sometime after the birth of daughter (ca 1857). James Chinnery and Lucy along with 5 sons (Eli, Henry Keeble, John Anthony, Alfred, Isaac) were enumerated during the 1860 Census in Van Buren County, Michigan.

Three of the daughters Eliza, Maria, and Lucy were married in Ontario. One daughter, Maria and her husband((future?) immigrated to Van Buren County. Eliza stayed in Hastings County and along with her husband were considered pillars of the community.

Like her parents and sibling brothers Maria and Henry Wickett were farmers.

The Canadian census record provided the year of immigration to Canada for the Chinnerys - 1842. Eliza married in 1846 (age 19). Lucy married in 1849 (age 18) and Maria married in 1857 (age 18).

FUTURE RESEARCH

This is always the way, the more information you glean the more opportunities to research.

1. Chinnery Arrival in Canada - Portof Entry
2. Check 1860 Census in Michigan for Henry Wickett.
3. Probable land records in Victoria District for James Chinnery.
4. Marriage information for Eli and Mary Anne in Canada.
5. Check Suffolk County for Watson and Wickett. While the Wicketts came before Chinnery, did the Chinnerys migrate to this location because of the Wicketts.

6. We find that there was also a Anthony Chinnery in this area of Canada. Age such that he could be a sibling of James. Anthony came to Ontario earlier. Could this be a reason for the migration?

7. Did Henry and Maria Wickett move to Mason County? As I put this news letter together I was reviewing my research notebooks. I use spiral bound note books during my research. I try to record all the information I find as well as resources I have checked but gleaned nothing. While in Salt Lake City, I was checking land transfers for Mason county, Michigan. I noted a transfer for Isaac Chinnery & wife to Wickett. Vol 17/331 for Section 23 T18N/R17W. I didn't record the full name for Wickett as the name met nothing to me. I now wonder whether this is Henry and Maria Wickett. Possible when one considers that Henry and Maria were with her siblings in Van Buren County. Isaac and Maria were brother and sister.

8. Check birth and death records in Mason County for Wickett.

9. Check Mason County City Directories for Wickett.

Joseph Eplett & Charlotte Creede

Joseph and Charlotte are the parents of Mary Anne and Elizabeth Eplett. We now know the family to have included the following children: Mary Ann, Mary Anne Gerrans, Elizabeth, Eliza, Joseph Hinton, Ann Maria and Charlotte Sabina [For details of family see family group sheet on page 9.]. Joseph was a watch maker and a gunsmith. There are spelling variations for Charlotte's last name - Creede, Greedy, Gready. Creede is taken from certified copy of birth certificate for Mary Anne Gerrans. Charlotte's parents were John Creede and Mary Ginner.¹²

Barbara Millar provided me with detail family information of the descendants of Joseph and Charlotte. We will not include this information in this issue of newsletter because Barbara and I are busy researching additional details. Upon receiving her information I noted a discrepancy between the birthdate and birthplace for Mary Anne Gerrens Eplett my gg grandmother. We were both confident that we had the correct family in the correct location of Canada so back to the drawing boards.

Using "freecen"¹³ I found the death of a Mary Ann Eplett in Great Torrington occurring the last quarter of 1837. Eli Chinnery's wife Mary Anne was born Jan 31, 1838 in Great Torrington. Barabra's data showed the birthplace for Mary Ann as being in Wivelscombe, Somersett, England on September 29, 1836. We are now concluding that there were two daughters named Mary Ann(e), the first born in 1836 and died in 1837 as an infant. Upon the birth of a

another daughter they again named their new born Mary Ann but this time adding another forename - "Gerrens", thus we have Mary Anne Gerrens Eplett.

This research has located the family within a short time span as having been married in Dulverton, Somerset, England, living in Wivelscombe and thence to Great Torrington, some 45-50 miles distance and returning to Wivelscombe by the time of the 1841 Census. While this distance may not seem great to us in the 21st Century, this would have been a considerable distance in the 1830's.

Joseph Eplett was a watchmaker/gunsmith by trade. He was listed in Pigot's Directory¹⁴ for Taunton in 1830 .

Civil Registration - England

Civil Registration began in England July 1837. Prior to this date all records were maintained by church parishes and submitted to their Bishops - called Bishop Transcripts. The entries are well indexed. At the LDS in Salt Lake City I found the index available on microfiche and microfilm rolls. The index is arranged alphabetically by quarters for births, marriages, and deaths. Genealogists commonly refer to these records as "BMD" (for births, marriages, and deaths). When using the above fiche or films the search effort can be reduced if one knows the calender quarter the event occurred. Now through the efforts of many volunTERS these films(fiche) are being transcribed into a didgital format and made available online. The project as yet is not completed so your attempt to find a lost ancestor may be for naught if the district of their orgin has not been transcribed. I was fortunate when searching for death of Mary Ann Eplett because thanks to some volunteer in Devonshire the district of Great Torrington had been transcribed.

"3 in a Ditch"

Fitch Four Drive Tractors



ca. 1925 - California (photo submitted by Chris Dixon)

¹² This clears up one fact from Alice Chinnery's notes. These notes indicated that Mary Anne Eplett's mother was Mary Ginner. This of course didn't agree with the birth certificate information. Thus we now know that Mary Ginner was a grandmother, not mother.

¹³ <http://www.freecen.rootsweb.com> & www.freebmd.rootsweb.com
- See Surfing the Internet.

¹⁴ Pigot's Directory - a commercial directory popular during the 1800's in England. Somewhat like our city directories.

THE JAMES CLIFFORD HOMESTEAD

Submitted by Dorothy Burdette

William James Clifford, married Martha Weston Lano in West Oxford, Oxford Co., Ontario October 30, 1863. Both were about 24 years old. Martha had come from a slightly higher class of pioneer family and brought several family treasures with her. The treasures passed down to her youngest daughter Rachel and Martha's granddaughter Ena McClean remembers often handling these family momentoes when on vacation to aunt Rachels. Ena remembered water colors on parchment supposedly painted by Martha's mother, the Lano family crest on parchment, a lovely paisley silk shawl and some beautiful sewing boxes. Unfortunately these were lost to the family when Rachel died without any heirs and her husband, George Smith sold family heirlooms at auction. The story goes that Martha was also given a diamond cluster ring, along with her sisters. This too went to Rachel and was subsequently lost. These items however give us some indication that Martha was a customed to a somewhat higher standard of living. In reading Ena's description of the Clifford farmhouse one would imagine that maybe other items were a part of Martha's dowry.

We don't know for sure the exact date that James and Martha came to Amabel but the family believes they came immediately after their marriage in 1863. In fact the obituary of their eldest son Wm. James (Will), born the next summer, in August of 1864, states that he was born in Amabel. We know they first built a simple log home near the road on lot 12 concession 8. They were given a Crown Deed to this 100 acre lot in August of 1871, but I think they probably had been living on the property for several years. At some point they built a lovely brick home further back on the property which still stands today. I think it likely that a daughter Martha, Mrs Charles Murry lived for a time in the first house, as did the youngest son Robert John and his wife Alice and young family.

The following excerpts are taken from the Amabel Township History and gives us a glimpse into the involvement of the Clifford family in the early development of the area.

School. The first school available in this community was built on the corner of Lot 5, Concession "r". When school section 10 was organized in the early 1870's a log school was built 5/8 ths of a milenorth of present school. The teacher's salaries were from \$200.00 to \$300.00. Trustees were John Bylthe, **James Clifford** and Peter Anderson.

Church ... Zion Methodist Church, Amabel was formed as part of a new mission in June 1875. Rev. Adam Glazer was missionary in charge; service being held in the log school house which was then situated on the south end of Lot 10 concession 9. The members of this congregation were six in number; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hughes; Mr. and Mrs. James Clifford; and Mr. and Mrs. George Slingo. The salary appropriation was seventeen dollars. Of this amount only twelve dollars and twenty cents could be raised, this leaving a deficiency of four dollars and eighty cents.

James and Martha Clifford (nee Lano) would raise eight children, six boys and two girls on the farm. One son

Russel born in 1866 would only live five years, passing away November 11, 1871. James Sr., died September 28, 1896 at just 57 years of age. Both Russel and James Sr. were first buried in a little cemetery near Spring Creek. The stone bears this inscription:

James Clifford September 23m 1896 - 57 years
The winter of trouble past
The storms of affliction are o'er
The struggles are endedw at last
And sorrow and death are no more

After the death of Martha in 1910 the bodies of James and Russel were moved to Zion Cemetery (dev 1896) and a large tombstone erected. Samuels stone is adjacent.

Dorothy Burdette

***** SURFING THE INTERNET

freecen

<http://freecen.rootsweb.com>

Use this freecen is a joint project with "rootsweb" & volunteers to transcribe English Vital Records and documents in format readily accessible by users of the internet. I used this resource to search Civil Registration Indexs for Births, Marriages, Deaths. Currently freecen is usable but the user should understand that current availability of records is not 100% Data is added as fast as the transcribers can complete the section they have volunteered for. As an example I have volunteered to transcribe the pages from 1861 English Census for Great Torrington, Devonshire, England. I will be supplied with a CD containing photos of the census pages. As I review those pages and enter into a spread sheet like format.

LDS-Salt Lake City

<http://www.familysearch.org>

We reported on this web site in the past. Its getting better, more and more material continually being added. As an example a search of the IGI in 1996 did not yield anything regarding the marriages of the Chinnery sisters, but searches made this past month found marriages for three of the girls. SO!, if at first you don't succeed try again later.

Common Genealogical Terms

ggg Grandfather

One or more letter "g" prefixed with grandmother or grandfather.

g = great

gg = great great

etc.

Curtesy

The life estate to which a man is entitled under the common law, upon death of his wife, in all lands she possessed in fee simple, provided they had children born alive.

Dower

The lands and tenements to which a widow has claim, in life estate, after the death of her husband, for the support of herself and her children.

Six Generation Listing for George Geer and Descendents¹⁵ First Generation

1. George Geer.

George married Sarah Allyn.

They had one child:

- 2 i. Daniel (~1673-1749)

Second Generation

2. Daniel Geer. Born abt 1673 in Preston, NewLondon Co., CT. Daniel died in Preston, New London Co., CT on 2 Oct 1749; he was 76.

bef 1700 when Daniel was 27, he first married Hannah. Hannah died bef 24 Oct 1728.

They had the following children:

- 3 i. Daniel (1700-)
4 ii. John (1703-1776)
5 iii. **Christopher (1706-1795)**
6 iv. Ebenezer (1707-)
7 v. William (1712-1772)
8 vi. Thankful (1720-1806)

On 24 Oct 1728 when Daniel was 55, he second married Hannah Tracy, daughter of Jonathan Tracy & Mary Griswold, in Preston Twn, NewLondon Co., CT. Born on 8 Jul 1677 in Preston Twn, NewLondon Co., CT. Hannah died bef 23 Jan 1752; she was 74. SUBSEQUENT CHILDREN PRESENTLY NOT LISTED.

Third Generation

3. Daniel Geer. Born on 15 Jun 1700.

4. John Geer. Born on 29 Mar 1703. John died on 7 Mar 1776; he was 72.

5. Christopher Geer. Born on 19 Dec 1706 in Preston, NewLondon Co., CT. Christopher died on 1 Apr 1795; he was 88. On 3 Jun 1747 when Christopher was 40, he married Prudence Weakley. Born in Preston, New London Co., CT.

They had the following children:

- 9 i. Patience Weeks (1748-1826)
10 ii. **Lemuel (1750-) Geer#107**
11 iii. Phoebe (1753-1759)

Christophor (1st) married PrudenceHannah Geer.

They are known to have had 5 children.

6. Ebenezer Geer. Born on 29 Dec 1707/9.

7. William Geer. Born on 4 Jan 1712/3. William died on 5 Feb 1772; he was 60.

8. Thankful Geer. Born on 7 Jan 1720/1. Thankful died in Mar 1806; she was 86.

Fourth Generation

9. Patience Weeks Geer. Born on 17 Feb 1748. Patience Weeks died in Adams, Jefferson Co., NY on 11 Jan 1826; she was 77.

On 6 Dec 1773 when Patience Weeks was 25, she married Richard Otis Jr., son of Richard Otis Sr. & Sarah Dayton, in Preston Twn, NewLondon Co., CT. Born on 27 Nov 1744 in New London, CT. Richard died on 25 Nov 1824; he was 79.

10. Lemuel Geer. Geer # 107

Born on 28 Jun 1750 in Preston Twp., NewLondon Co., CT. Lemuel died in NY.

Children:

- 12 i. Elisha (1776-1873)
13 ii. Leonard
14 iii. **Lemuel Geer # 107-3**
15 iv. Olive

¹⁵ We have only shown issue in order to depict relationships of Ann Eliza Geer - Chart is not intend to imply that others had no issue.

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v.

Patience

11. Phoebe Geer. Born on 6 Apr 1753. Phoebe died on 9 Jun 1759; she was 6.

Fifth Generation

12. Elisha Geer. Born in Feb 1776. Elisha died on 18 Sep 1873; he was 97. Elisha married Martha.

13. Leonard Geer.

14. Lemuel Geer. Geer #107-3

On 12 Jul 1807 Lemuel married Dorcas Brontzon, in New Rhinebeck, Town Of Sharon, NY. Born abt 1784 in PA.

They had the following children:

- 17 i. George (ca1810-1879)
18 ii. Anna Eliza (1816-1900)
19 iii. Erastus C. (ca1817-1871)
20 iv. Lorenzo (ca1823-1881)

15. Olive Geer.

16. Patience Geer.

Sixth Generation

17. George Geer. Geer # 107-3-1

Born ca 1810 in New York. George died in Macomb Co., MI on 2 Jun 1879; he was 69.

18. Anna Eliza Geer. Geer # 107-3-2

Born on 16 Jan 1816 in NY. Anna Eliza died in Richmond, Macomb Co., MI on 4 Mar 1900; she was 84. Buried in Mar 1900 in New Baltimore, Macomb Co., MI. On 10 Nov 1836 when Anna Eliza was 20, she married Andrew J. Heath, son of Jacob Heath & Abigail Adams, in Rochester, Monroe Co., NY. Born on 24 May 1815 in Ontario Co., NY. Andrew J. died in New Haven, Macomb Co., MI on 13 Jun 1889; he was 74.

They had the following children:

- i. Harriet Emiely (1837-1859)
ii. **Mary Melissa (1838-1923)**
iii. William (1840-1843)
iv. David Mellon (1840-1895)
v. Irena S. (1845-1875)
vi. Marvin (1847-1856)
vii. Henry P (1849-1906)
viii. Ira Jasper (1852-1922)

19. Erastus C. Geer. Geer #107-3-3

Born ca 1817 in NY. Erastus C. died in Chesterfield Twp., Macomb Co., MI on 8 Aug 1871; he was 54. Occupation: Physician.

Erastus C. married Eveline. Born ca 1815 in New York.

They had one child:

- i. Rosella (ca1849-)

20. Lorenzo Geer. Geer #107-3-4

Born ca 1823 in NY. Lorenzo died in Genesee Co. MI on 8 Oct 1881; he was 58. Buried in Genesee Co. MI.

On 1 May 1847 when Lorenzo was 24, he married Alvira Yorton, daughter of Nicholas Yorton. Born ca 1831.

They had the following children:

- i. Almonds (ca1848-)
ii. Esther (ca1849-) (or Nester)
iii. Mary
iv. Malissa

NOTE:

Lorenzo Geer was widowed and subsequent marriage and offspring. Your editor is still adding information to database and complete family group sheets will be available at a later date.

Geer Family Association

The numbering of descendents of George Geer is based upon 1923 Geer Genealogy and a Supplement published in 1991 by the association. Your editor's number:

Donald Chinnery Geer # 107-3-2-2-4-2-1

Would you like to know yours? email or write and I will send by return response

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FIRST CLASS