

2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

Finding the Correct Ancestor: Civil War Soldiers and Homesteads Jean Nudd

This session highlights a frequent occurrence in genealogy research; multiple people with the same name, living in the same area. Using an example of a Michigan homesteader, who fought in the Civil War, this lecture outlines a process for identifying individuals in order to determine the correct ancestor.



2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR



Jean Nudd

Archivist
National Archives
at Boston

Jean Nudd is an archivist with the National Archives and Records Administration, working for Research Services where she does on-line catalog work, creates on-line databases and helps regional facilities with other duties. Prior to this, Jean worked for 3 years at the Boston office and she ran the microfilm reading room at the Pittsfield facility of the National Archives for 17 years helping genealogists. She started her archival career at the Arizona State Archives. Jean earned her Bachelors degree in history from Plymouth State College in Plymouth, New Hampshire and her Masters from Arizona State University in local history societies.

1862 Homestead Act

- Priority to Civil War veterans
- Anyone could get 160 acres land
- Veterans could get additional land, up to another 160 acres
- Specific requirements to homestead
 - Live on land for 5 years
 - Make improvements to land
 - Prove improvements made

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M25, Bureau of Land Management

Correspondence files

 Last 3 rolls document Civil War veterans additional homestead requests

Pittsfield volunteers indexed these rolls

Useful to genealogists?

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Charles Rockwell

- Two letters in M25 concerning Charles Rockwell's request for additional land in Michigan
- Charles Rockwell is a pretty common name – in the 1870 Michigan census there are 11 Charles Rockwells listed
- Let's look at the census first to see what we can discover about Charles Rockwell

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Search Results Provided By

Ancestry The No. 1 Source for Family History

Data Source: 1870 United States Federal Census

Saturday, August 04, 2007 9:28:32 AM

View Record	Name	Home in 1870 (City, County, State)	Estimated birth year	Birthplace	Race	Gender	View Image
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Ganges, Allegan, MI	abt 1823	Ohio	White	Male	Q.
View Record	Charles Rockwell	Battle Creek Ward 2, Calhoun, MI	abt 1814	New York	White	Male	Q
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Olive, Clinton, MI	abt 1861	Michigan	White	Male	Ģ
<u>View</u> Record	Chas E Rockwell	Thetford, Genesee, MI	abt 1840	New York	White	Male	Q.
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Bear Lake, Manistee, MI	abt 1835	Connecticut	White	Male	Q
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Crystal, Montcalm, MI	abt 1811	Pennsylvania	White	Male	Ų.
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Bloomfield, Oakland, MI	abt 1862	Michigan	White	Male	Ç
<u>View</u> Record	Charles A Rockwell	Springfield, Oakland, MI	abt 1848	Michigan	White	Male	Ç
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Chester, Ottawa, MI	abt 1823	New York	White	Male	Ę,
<u>View</u> Record	Chas Rockwell	Lawrence, Van Buren, MI	abt 1830	New York	White	Male	
<u>View</u> Record	Charles Rockwell	Dexter, Washtenaw, MI	abt 1851	New York	White	Male	a Q

1870 Charles Rockwells

- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1823 in Ohio
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1814 in New York
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1861 in Michigan
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1840 in New York
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1835 in Connecticut
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1811 in Pennsylvania
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1862 in Michigan
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1848 in Michigan
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1823 in New York
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1830 in New York
- Charles Rockwell, b. abt. 1851 in New York

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Who can we eliminate?

- Age immediately lets us eliminate 5 of them:
 - Charles born 1861 in Michigan
 - Charles born 1862 in Michigan
 - Charles born 1848 in Michigan
 - Charles born 1851 in New York
 - Charles born in 1811 in Pennsylvania probably too old

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What else can we do?

- Fairly common problem in genealogical research – how do we know which person is our ancestor when we are searching for common names
- What techniques and records can we use to sort out the remaining 7 Charles Rockwells?

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Steps in Finding The Correct Ancestor

- Determine where your ancestor lived so you can check records for that area; determine if (s)he had siblings, children, war service – anything that makes him/her stand out from the crowd
- Use every type of record you can think of

 vital records, census, newspapers, city
 directories, genealogies, tax lists even if
 they don't contain personal information

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Steps, cont.

- If more than one person by that name lived in the same place, find person-specific records to find information on each person with that name so you can tell them apart – vital records, pension files, deeds, probate, occupational, voting lists, tax rolls
- Use collateral lines to help you set your ancestor apart from others with the same name
- Collect as much information on that name in that place as you can – be exhaustive in your search examining every type of record, even those that might not have ages or family information

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Steps, cont.

- Record complete information from each record source – exact dates, any relationships either implied or specific, witnesses, neighbors, signatures, land descriptions or locations, etc.
- Understand the records you collect; evaluate records you find and assemble the information into a useable framework – Don't just collect information but analyze it

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Steps, cont.

- Try putting the facts you collect into graph form or a timeline arranged by given name, then location, religion, neighbors, or any other variables that can help sort out information
- Refocus your research as you assemble the facts found in records – don't just collect records and facts but use the pieces you collect to ask questions to take you to the next step in your research

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So Where to Start with Charles Rockwell?

 We know our Charles Rockwell had to be a Civil War soldier

 We don't know where he was born, what state he might have served from, etc.

What records can we check to find this information out?

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Records to look at

- Since he's a Civil War soldier, let's look at <u>www.itd.nps.gov/cwss</u> to see what Charles Rockwells are listed as serving in the Civil War
- Let's check the pension index for the Civil War to see if we can find Charles Rockwells living in Michigan who received pensions for their service
- Let's see if there are any Charles Rockwells in Michigan who received Civil War service gravestones

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www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

- Easy to search
- We know our Charles Rockwell had to be a Union soldier since he filed for a homestead
- It also includes brief regimental histories so we can see where it was founded and what action it saw

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SOLDIERS & SAILORS SYSTEM

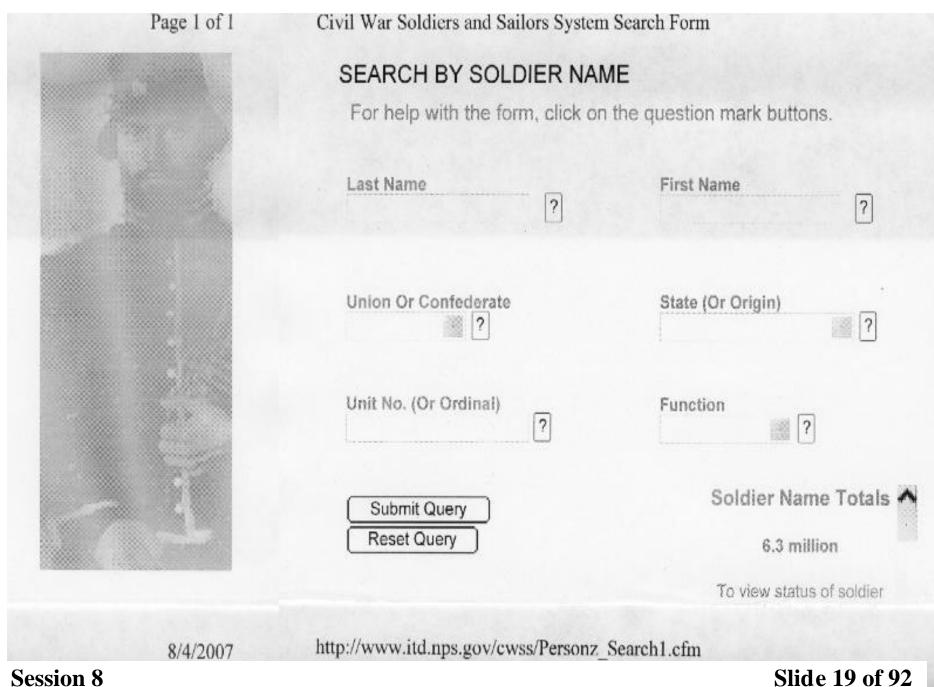


RYLIGHT STRX SERVICE

Visit the new NPS website

The American Civil War

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Charles Rockwells

- CR 140th Ohio Infantry
- CR 15th NY Engineers
- CR 49th PA Infantry
- CR 70th IL Infantry
- CR 56th IL Mechanics
- CR 40th NJ Infantry
- CR 8th MA Infantry
- CR 49th MA Infantry
- CR 149th PA Infantry
- CR 5th PA Reserve Inf.
- CR 123rd US Colored Inf.

- CR 137th NY Infantry
- CR 102nd NY Infantry
- CR 119th IL Infantry
- CR 17th PA Cavalry
- CR 128th OH Infantry
- CR 13th PA Cavalry
- CR 5th CT Infantry
- CR 92nd NY Infantry
- CR 28th WI Infantry
- CR 46th IL Infantry
- CR 49th MA Infantry

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From www.civilwararchives.com

15th Regiment Engineers

Organized at Washington, D.C.. October 25, 1861, from 15th Regiment New York Infantry. Attached to Engineer Brigade, Army of the Potomac.

SERVICE.--Duty at Washington and Alexandria until March, 1862. Moved to the Virginia Peninsula March. Siege of Yorktown April 5-May 4. Advance up the Peninsula and constructing bridges on the Chickahominy River May. Seven days before Richmond June 25-July 1. Seven Pines June 27. White Oak Swamp and Charles City Cross Roads June 30. Malvern Hill July 1. At Harrison's Landing until August 16. Moved Washington, D.C., August 16-22. Maryland Campaign September-October. Rappahannock Campaign November, 1862, to June, 1863. Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 12-15. "Mud March" January 20-24, 1863. Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6. Operations about Franklin's Crossing April 29-May 2. Maryes Heights, Fredericksburg, May 3. Salem Heights May 3-4. Banks' Ford May 4. Deep Run Ravine June 5-13. Mustered out June 25, 1863. Three years men consolidated to a Battalion of three Companies, "A," "B" and "C." Company "D" assigned December 9, 1863; Company "E" assigned March, 1864, and other seven Companies November, 1864. Gettysburg (Pa.) Campaign June-July, 1863. Battle of Gettysburg July 1-3. Bristoe Campaign October 9-22. Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8. Mine Run Campaign November 26-December 2. Rapidan Campaign May-June, 1864. Battles of the Wilderness May 5-7; Spottsylvania Court House May 8-21; North Anna River May 23-26. On line of the Pamunkey May 26-28. Totopotomoy May 28-

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T288, Pension Index

- Three Charles Rockwells in the pension rolls
 - Charles Rockwell, widow Mary A., served F 15th NY Engineers, pensioned 1882 in Michigan, widow pensioned 1890
 - Charles Rockwell, widow Lucretia I., served B 56th IL Mechanics, pensioned 1892 in Michigan, widow pensioned 1911
 - Charles Rockwell, no widow listed, served C 20th US Infantry, pensioned 1903 in Michigan

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M1845, Civil War Headstones

Only one Charles Rockwell listed in this publication –

Charles Rockwell, pvt., Co. F, 15th Regiment,
 NY Engineers, buried cemetery at Ravenna,
 Michigan, died May 6, 1886

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Cemetery. Grave Date of death Headstone supplied by . Gross Brothers, Lee Mass., Contract da June 1, 1890. Slide 27 of 92 Session 8

Which Charles Rockwell?

- We have 7 in the 1870 Census in Michigan
- We have 22 who served in the Civil War
- We have 3 who received pensions in Michigan
- We have 1 who received a Civil War headstone
- Where should we go next? Maybe Civil War pension files will give us more information about these Charles Rockwells – need to order from DC so what can we do in the meantime?
- Let's number the CRs we found in the pension index 1, 2 and 3 and see what we can find out about each of them.

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Charles Rockwell #1

- The first one we find in the pension index is Charles Rockwell, widow Mary A., who served in the F15th New York Engineers and died around 1890 since that's when his widow was pensioned
- The Charles Rockwell who had a headstone served in the F15th NY Engineers and is buried in Ravenna, died May 6, 1886
- Is he on the census?

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Charles Rockwell #1

- On the 1890 Census of Union veterans and widows, Mary A. listed as widow of Charles in Chester, enlisted Sept. 5, 1864, discharged June 13, 1865, rank private, regiment 15th NY Engineers
- Same Charles appears on the 1880 census in Chester, wife Mary A. and son James along with a Phillip O. Averill, Charles' occupation is shoemaker
- Charles Rockwell on the 1870 Michigan census born in New York in 1823, post office is Ravenna, living in Chester, Ottawa County, wife Mary A.
- 1860 census in New York, in Camillus, Onondaga Co., he's a farmer, living with wife Mary A. and children Granville, Theresa, and James but also Ebenezer (age 76) and Ann (age 70) Cates! In-laws perhaps?
- 1850 census also in Camillus, Onondaga Co., New York, again listed with wife Mary A and Ebenezer Cates, 66 and Anna Cates 64. Charles listed as a shoemaker, Ebenezer as a farmer

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What else can we check for this Charles Rockwell?

 The first things that come to my mind are the New York state census and the 1850 and 1860 agricultural census as well as his pension file

 Turns out the New York State Archives has more on Civil War soldiers that might prove helpful!

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New York State Census

- 1855 NY State Census lists Charles Rockwell, age 32, laborer, born Onondaga, married, nothing under years lived in this city/town, farmer, native voter, owns land
- With him in the household are his wife, Mary A., age 28, born Onondaga, resided in Camillus 9 years; children Grenville age 6, Theresey M. age 4, Emily age 2 and James 2/12
- Ebenezer Cates age 72, relationship father, born Maine, married, resided in Camillus 9 years, no occupation, native voter, owns land and his wife Anna age 66 as well as a nephew Ebenezer Conway, age 12, lived in Camillus 9 years, born Onondaga

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1860 U.S. Agricultural Census

- The 1850 listing is a good example of mix-ups that can occur in census records – It lists Eber Rockwell rather than Charles Rockwell or Ebenezer Cates!
- 1860 lists C. Rockwell in Camillus, owns 50 acres, 44 improved, cash value of land \$2500, 2 horses, 3 milch cows, other cattle 3, sheep 4, swine 4, value of livestock \$405, grew 65 bushels of wheat, 50 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of oats, 1000 pounds of tobacco, various vegetables like peas and potatoes, 400 pounds of butter and 20 pounds of honey

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New York State Archives

- Perhaps the most interesting items found concerning this Charles Rockwell were at the NYSA –
 - Complete Record . . . composing the quotas of the troops furnished to the U.S. from each town in New York
 - Adjutant General's Office, compiled muster roll abstracts of Civil War soldiers

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Adjutant General's records

- Arranged by county, then town and then alphabetically by surname of soldier
- Listing for Charles Rockwell in Camillus,
 Onondaga Co., tells us that he was age 44
 when he enlisted Sept. 5, 1864 from
 Camillus, discharged June 13, 1865 at Ft.
 Berry, Virginia, born in Geddes, NY, had
 grey eyes, brown hair, light complexion,
 and was 5'10" tall.

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Adjutant General's Office.

13775-83 Civil War Minster Roll Abstracts of New York State Volunteers, United State
Sharpshooters, and United States Colored Troops, [ca. 1861-1900]
264 cubic feet, 837 volumes.

Arrangement: Numeric by regiment, then alphabetical by last name.

Finding sids: Volume list.

Indexes: An alphabetical name index is available which lists regiment number(s).

Series 13775 consists of abstracts compiled from original muster rolls of New York State units that fought in the Civil War. The abstracts provide information on the history and engagements of the units and on the enlistment and military service of individual members. The accretion being filmed here, 13775-83, consists of 837 volumes of abstracts that include information on the 85th through the 194th Infantry and other regiments.

Session 8

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Complete Record of Troops

- Microfilmed for each town
- Under Camillus, we find Charles Rockwell, born April 10, 1821 in Onondagas Co., private in the 15th Cavalry, enlisted Sept. 15, 1864, mustered in Sept. 19, town paid a bounty of \$150 while the county paid a bounty of \$1000, town didn't pay the family any relief for his service, listed as married, also gives parents names – father Elkany, a laborer and Ann Barder mother. Last column of remarks lists Charles as still living in Camillus when the register was completed.

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COMPLETE RECORD,

AS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 690, OF THE LAWS OF 1865,

RELATING TO

Officers, Soldiers and Seamen,

COMPOSING THE QUOTAS OF THE TROOPS FURNISHED

TO THE

UNITED STATES,

BY THE

Founty of Onelage

STATE OF NEW YORK

Session 8 Slide 47 of 92

Private 15 & Sept-19.1864 1-4, Camilles 4 \$ 158 \$ 1000 Nome: Rockwell Charles Residence: (amillus I Private Place of Birth: 4/1/018 4/ Coun days Coly News: Chel's Johnathan H Private 122 & Aug. 2.1841 99 Inf & Sug El. 1862 Reiles & Comellus Time and Place of Birthe Fug 4 18 29 Worlland Co. Ay E- Feb. 13.186499 Camielus # Private 122 Name: Tabins Peter Inf 12- Feb. 13, 1864 Residence: Camillus A Privale Time and Place of Birth Apr. 2018 12 Sanatogo h 4 6-00t. 10-1861 94 le amiles 9 - Baldwin black **Slide 48 of 92** Session 8

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Slide 49 of 92 ¹

- So what have we learned about CR#1?
 - Born in Geddes, Onondaga Co., NY
 - Born April 10, 1821
 - 5'10" tall, light complexion, grey eyes, brown eyes
 - Married Mary Ann Cates
 - Parents Elkany & Ann Barder
 - Father born CT, mother born NY
 - Had 4 children, 1 died young
 - Served in the 15th NY Engineers, Co. F
 - Enlisted Sept, 5, 1864 in NY
 - Discharged June 13, 1865, Ft. Barry, VA
 - Modestly successful farmer & part-time shoemaker
 - Moved to Michigan in 1866, settled in Ravenna, Chester, Ottawa Co.
 - Died May 6, 1886
 - Received a Civil War gravestone

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Charles Rockwell #1 pension

- We've learned a great deal about this Charles Rockwell but nothing that tells us if he was the homesteader! Let's look at his pension file.
- To get a Civil War pension, the veteran had to be injured during the war – CR #1 suffered from rheumatism on the left side, and his pension gives us a pretty detailed account of how the injury happened near Ft. Marion

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Mavenna Muskean 6 Prulingar Moounter 25 1882 Draz di Moun Circular relative to Assy In alice Pension Claim ne 440669 is received. In answer I would say That for five years preeding my Enlist mint- I lived in bamelino. Brondage County how york and worked at Shoemaking, after my discharge I setume to Cameley, and attempted to work at-Show making but found I could notwork on the bench on account of the hint to my limb. In 1866 I came to michigan and since that time I did what I could atfarming until I had the misfortime to lose my arm after which I peddled some dorny chores working inthe garden, and what ever I could to get along. While we were out on drile one day mean Fort- Marrion the Officer in Command ordinal us to double quick march, while passing down a hill which had bus cleased from bushes leaving stubs about sex mehrs high I struck my toe against or under a root of fell forward striking the ground

my hip The dunicen gave me Elminulo for it; Since my discharge Thave used Limmenes & freeliens recommended by doctors & others but have not regularly Employed a doctor I have been troubled with Ahrumatism at- different-times since also with comp in my timb I had a severe attack of Rheumatism in the spring of 1880 by which I was confined to the house for some time using limment & medicines prescribed by Dr. J. S. Smith now living in Paterne I had, had Several attacks before, at different times, but not as Using as that our that laid our up - The limb that cous enjerned as about stated has become unch unaller than the other and the big too has harly my fulling in it, and is very troublesome Charles Rockwell I wom and Dubs cribed before me at Ramme the 27th day of chromobon 1852 And British Anth chothery Public Monteyon beginnt my stations butificate is on file in

Charles #1 pension, cont.

- Mary as his widow also allowed a pension but had to prove she was his widow –
- Number of affidavits in the file to prove this
- Several of these affidavits contain information not only on their life in Michigan but also their life in Onondaga Co.

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for Widow's Pension. Beclaration (Act of June 27, 1890.) To be executed before a Clerk of a Court of Record or a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace having a Seal. higan County of day of triquel , A. D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety personally appeared before mea, Malary in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths, _________ aged Suffy four years, a resident of the Clients. , county of O'FARRELL'S , who being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is, who, enlisted under the name Melson to insleys Here state rank, company and regiment in military service or vessel, it in the navy.) in the war of the Rebellion, and served at least ninety days, and was honorably discharged at Jort De Va, fund 15, 1865, and died in the Township of Cheese Co. Ottown State of Continued at the Township of Cheese State of Continued at the Township of Cheese State of Continued at the State of death need not be stated.) That she was married under the name of Many A Cates of CAl lockwill on the 16 day of Saplember, exclusive That she has not remarried since the death of the said to harles (Name of soldier or sailor.) That names and dates of birth of all the That she is without other means of support than her daily labor. is for the children of the soldier now living under sixteen years of age are as follows: ..., born, 18 Blank , born/ , 18 She has That she makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the U.S. under the provisions of the Act of June 27, 1890. She hereby appoints PATRICK O'FARRELL, of Washington, D. C., her lawful attorney to prosecute her claim, and agrees to allow him a fee of ten dollars. Her postoffice

address is

Affidavil Soldins Wielow. Tersonally came before me many A. Rochwell the widow of Charles Rockwell a private in Co. F. 15 1814 Engineers who says that she was born in the town of Cicero County of Orondagna State of My on the 22 Holay of Fro. 1826. That she was married to the aforesaid Charles. Rockwell on the 16 day of September 1846. in the township of Camillus in the County of Enonglaque and State of how york by the Rev. John Michinsley a methodist Clingyman at her fathers House there were present as witnesses her father, mother and one sister Emily - ther cousins Sana, Mellen and Myrow Mellen, That her marden name was Mary ann Cates. That she has not now nor Four had a certificate of her marriage. That all the witnesses of the aforesaid marriage are notolead to her certain knowledge - Except-one Cousin Nancy Morlen whom place of residence is undersoon to her at this time. That she lived with her husband the aforesaid Charles Rockwith as his actinorolled ged wife until his wheath Many 6. 1886 a period of forty years marly. That The was never married to any other person that she now has three Children living in the township of lotical. Ollawa County mich as the femilo of that marings.

Mary's pension papers

 Most interesting affidavit in the file gives us information that Charles #1 is probably NOT the homesteader – from William Averill, age 64, a resident of Casnovia, Muskegon Co., Michigan, a long-time acquaintance of Charles and Mary Rockwell

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in relation to aforesaid case, as follows: [Note.—Affiants should state how they gained a knowledge of the facts to which they testify.] I was acquainted with Charles Rockwell from December 5th 1889 to the date of his death which was in May 1886 He was corrolled in the foverment service, Sept 8th 1864 in a regiment of mechanics or engineers. Has discharged from The Service Jane 18th 1865 by reason of Special order age NOTE. State how long you have been acquainted with claimant. If you were acquainted with at death about 66 years I was acquainted with Many Ann Rockwell his wife from the age of 10 years him at the time of his return from the army State what his physical to the present time . She was married to Charles Rockewell condition was. the name of the disease he complained of, how Sept 16th 1846. Present age about 66 years. She has two sons it appeared to affect him, and what symp-toms you observed of said disease when he living . Charles Bookwell had 40 acres of land at the complained. If he has complained time of his death of which about 20 acres is improved and suffering from said disease each year since then, while under your available the also left a mortgage on it of \$150,00 which is observation, state such fact, and in what manner he appeared to be affected by the disease or disability. It is not Still there I estimate the value of the land about \$600,00 expected that neighbors or laymen can tes-tify the same as phys-icians, but they should and would rent for about \$50,00 per anum of which the be able to testify to the symptoms they observ-ed of the disease or disability from which law of Michigan allows her 13 or \$16,66.6 also the interest he complained, and state to the best of their on the mortgage at 7 per ch \$10,00 leaving bald \$6,16 in her knowledge and belief the extent to which he favor. And the average arread tax is about \$7,00 according has been disabled for performing manual labor, by reasons of the alleged disability tax pects on handle for previously years leaveing her 100 of a Dollar in dell anually, I think the Pension Qureau would act wisely in restoring this shortage at least, or a more favorable decree of the Probate Court for the widowhood Charles Cookwell was never in the Sarvice after the above mentioned discharge further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

How do we know Charles #1 not the homesteader?

- The smallest acreage of land available to homestead was 160 acres or a quarter section
- Charles Rockwell #1 had only 40 acres of land in Michigan with a mortgage, about the same as his holdings in New York
- A search of <u>www.glorecords.blm.gov</u>, patents, lists 2 homestead entries for Charles Rockwell, in Michigan, both under the Act of 1862, so our homesteader had not just 160 acres allowed but an additional homestead of 160 acres for a total of 320 acres of land

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Printer Friendly Land Patent Results List - BLM GLO Records

You searched on: State=MICHIGAN, First Name=charles, Last Name=rockwell

Patentee Name	State	County/ Parish	Issue Date	District Land Office	Doc. Nr.	Accession or Serial Nr.
ROCKWELL, CHARLES	MI	Manistee	2/10/1874	Traverse City	1475	MI2490451
ROCKWELL, CHARLES	MI	Mason	11/20/1877	Ionia	2791	MI3040057
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Ottawa	5/1/1839	Bronson	10046	MI1300398
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10047	MI1300399
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10048	MI1300400
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10049	MI1300401
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10050	MI1300402
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Hillsdale	11/7/1837	Monroe	12548	MI1170029
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Hillsdale	8/14/1837	Monroe	13183	MI1180147
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Barry	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	17654	MI1570187
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19709	MI1490137
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Kalamazoo	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19710	MI1490138
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19711	MI1490139
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19795	MI1490218
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19796	MI1490219
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Kalamazoo	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19902	MI1490312
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Barry	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	20813	MI1570 .332

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- The pension card for Charles Rockwell #2
 lists his widow as Lucretia and service as
 B56 Illinois Mechanics and Fusileers, filed
 1892 with widow's pension filed 1911 so
 we know Charles #2 was alive until about
 1911
- Let's start again with the census 1910 first and then backwards to 1850

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- The 1910 census shows Charles
 Rockwell, age 77, born Connecticut, with
 wife Lucretia, age 66, living in Maple
 Grove, Manistee Co. Lucretia had borne 6
 children with 3 living.
- On the 1900 census, Charles' birth is given as Sept. 1832 and he owns his farm free of mortgage.

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 The 1890 Veterans Schedules for Michigan show Charles G. Rockwell, farmer in Maple Grove, enlisted Oct. 11, 1861, discharged Jan. 11, 1862, Co. B., 1st Michigan Fusileers – not quite in agreement with his pension card!

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numbered in the order of visitation.	families manhered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	pass g	CRIPTIO	College, Spines, or "	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Person over 15 years of ago.	Value of Real Essale corned.	Prace or Berry. Naming the State, Territory. or Country.	Nurried within the year. Attended School within the year.	Whether deef and dumb, blind, income, idiotio, pasper, or convict.
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- Now we know this Charles was born in CT, we can search earlier census records.
- In 1850, there's just one Charles Rockwell in Michigan born in CT – age 17, living with his parents, Charles G. (49) and Sara (44) in Pontiac, Oakland Co., father is a farmer.
- In 1860, Sara is the head of the household

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- The 1870 census shows Charles #2
 married to Lucretia, living in Bear Lake,
 Manistee Co., real estate valued at \$500
 and he had \$150 in personal property
- By 1880, they had 3 children, confirms that his parents were born in CT, living in Maple Grove, Manistee Co.

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1870 Mortality Schedule

- We saw on the 1910 census, that Lucretia and Charles had had 6 children but only 3 were living.
- On the 1870 census, they didn't have any children but by 1880 they had 3 listed on the census.
- A search on Ancestry located a listing for a Charles Rockwell in Bear Lake who died in 1869

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Sec.	v v	D	WC88219	QML,	£386.3		Pass	MEYER			
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Charles Rockwell #2

- Again, to find complete information on this man, other places to search would be state census as well as the agricultural schedules for Michigan.
- We could again order his pension file from Washington
- And, of course, since we have the homestead numbers from the M25 letter, we should order the Land Entry file

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Land Entry Papers

- Bureau of Land Management has a database of public land patents available on-line at <u>www.glorecords.blm.gov</u>
- Only 2 listings in Michigan for Charles Rockwell

 first filed Feb. 10, 1874 at Traverse City,
 #1475
- Second filed Nov. 20, 1877 at Ionia #2791 the one we know is the additional homestead from M25 so both have to be the same CR
- Unlike land purchase files, homestead files can have significantly more information in them

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Printer Friendly Land Patent Results List - BLM GLO Records

You searched on: State=MICHIGAN, First Name=charles, Last Name=rockwell

Patentee Name	State	County/ Parish	Issue Date	District Land Office	Doc. Nr.	Accession or Serial Nr.
ROCKWELL, CHARLES	MI	Manistee	2/10/1874	Traverse City	1475	MI2490451
ROCKWELL, CHARLES	MI	Mason	11/20/1877	Ionia	2791	MI3040057
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Ottawa	5/1/1839	Bronson	10046	MI1300398
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10047	MI1300399
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10048	MI1300400
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10049	MI1300401
ROCKWELL, CHARLES A	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Bronson	10050	MI1300402
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Hillsdale	11/7/1837	Monroe	12548	MI1170029
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Hillsdale	8/14/1837	Monroe	13183	MI1180147
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Barry	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	17654	MI1570187
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19709	MI1490137
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Kalamazoo	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19710	MI1490138
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19711	MI1490139
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Berrien	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19795	MI1490218
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	St Joseph	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19796	MI1490219
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Kalamazoo	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	19902	MI1490312
ROCKWELL, CHARLES W	MI	Barry	5/1/1839	Kalamazoo	20813	MI1570332

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Printer Friendly Land Patent Details - BLM GLO Records

Accession/Serial #: MI3040__.057 BLM Serial #: MI NO S/N

Names

Patentee: CHARLES ROCKWELL

Survey

State: MICHIGAN

Acres: 8

Metes/Bounds: No

Title Transfer

Issue Date:

11/20/1877

Land Office:

Ionia

Cancelled:

No

U.S. Reservations: No

Mineral Reservations: No

Authority:

May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)

Document Numbers

Document Nr.: 2791

Misc. Doc. Nr.: 6999

Accession/Serial Nr.: MI3040__.057

BLM Serial Nr.: MI NO S/N

Aliquot Sec./ Fract. Survey
Parts Block Township Range Section Meridian State Counties Nr.

E½NW 21/ 18-N 16-W No Michigan-Toledo Strip MI Mason

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Muited States of America, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. 2791 A DEVERS, there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the Application 6999 United States a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Jonia, Michigan , whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts

supplemental thereto, the claim of Charles Rockwell

has been established and duby consummated in conformity to law for the Gast-half of the North West quarter of Section brienly one, in Township eighteen North, of Range skylien, West, in the District of Tands subject to sale at Gonia, Michigan, containing eighty acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL.

How know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES, unto the said Charles Kochwell

the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances and to his thereof, unto the said Charles Kockwell heirs and assigns forever.

> In Testimony whereof, T. Rutherford B. Hayes , PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Fatent, and the SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the twentieth day of November , in the year of Bur Bord one thousand eight hundred and sevenly seven , and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and seemed

By the President: D. B. Hayes

By B. Lo. Loang

, Sec'y.

BLM Serial #: MI NO S/N Accession/Serial #: MI2490 .451

Names

Patentee: CHARLES ROCKWELL

Survey

State:

MICHIGAN

1475

2052

MI NO S/N

Survey

Nr.

Acres:

87.53

Accession/Serial Nr.: MI2490 .451

Metes/Bounds: No

Document Numbers

Document Nr.:

Misc. Doc. Nr.:

BLM Serial Nr.:

Title Transfer

Issue Date:

2/10/1874

Land Office:

Traverse City

Cancelled:

No

No

U.S. Reservations:

Mineral Reservations: No

Authority:

May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)

Aliquot Sec./

Block

Township Range

Fract. Section

Meridian

State Counties

W1/2NW

Parts

7/

23-N

14-W

Yes

Michigan-Toledo Strip

MI

Manistee



THE MUNITER STRIFES OF ACMICUICA, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Application 2052. Whereas, there has been deposited in the Gonoral Land Office of the United States, a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Incresse billy whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Flomesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Charles Rochevell.

conformity to law for the blest fractional half of the Month west fractional half of the Month west fractional granter, of Section seven in Tournship livery- These month, of Range fourtien west in the disbrief of lands subject to sale at Traverse Bits
Allichian, containing tight- seven acres, and
fifty the hundredth of an acre,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the Gonoral Land Office by the Surveyor General.

How know pr., That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Charles Rockwell.

the truct of Land above despribed: To Have and to Hold the said tract of Land, with the appartenances thereof, unto the said Marles Rockwell, and to this heirs and assigns forever.

United states of america, have caused these letters to be made Datent, and the Soal of the General Kand Office to be hereunto affixed.



Land Entry File

- Homestead Entry file #2791, gives CR title of the east half of northwest quarter, section 21 in township 18N, range 16W
- Affidavit in the file from the War Dept. acknowledges CR enrolled on Oct. 11, 1861 at Pontiac, MI, in Co. B. of the Mechanics and Fusileers, 56th Regt. Of the IL Volunteers for 3 years

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Mar Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., July 19", 1879.
Sir:
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the
- 2 day of May , 1879, requesting a "Statement of Service" of Charles Rockwell
The following information has been obtained from the files of this
Office, and is respectfully furnished in reply to your inquiry:
It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that Charles
_ Kockwell was enrolled on the
day of October, 1861, at Tontiae Mith, in Co. 13.
nechanic Furlien Regiment of Illinon Volunteers, to
serve 3 years, or during the war, and mustered into service as
a Corporal on the 28 day of January, 1862,
at Chicago Ill, , in Co. B , Mechania Fueilin Regiment
of Illinon Volunteers, to scree 3 years, or during the
war. On the Muster Roll of Co. B. of that Regiment for the
months of dated January 28", 1862, he is reported
Cope, mustered out with co. at Chicago.
Ills, Jany 28, 1862.
"Organization being irregular and deception
Alls, Jany 28. 1862. "Organization being inegular and deception having been practiced in enlisting the men; it

Land Entry File, cont.

 Discharged Jan. 28, 1862 at Camp Douglas, Chicago, IL, from Co. B, 1st Regt of Mechanics and Fusileers

 Includes personal information that Charles was born in Fairfield, CT, age 29 at the time of enlistment in 1861, five 10" tall, fresh complexion, blue eyes, brown hair

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on all Whom if may Conggyn: KNOW YE, That Chearles Rockmill Corporal of Captain James & Marchi Company (). B.), 18/ Regiment of Executions Folunteers, who was en Hed on the Elevielle day of October one thou sand profit hundred out Sixly one to serve for three during the week is hereby DISCHARGED from the service of the United States this houly that of January 1862, ut Camp Douglas Chicago Illo, by rouson of the Secretary of War (No objection while term re-entisted is known to exist*.) said stead to Norkmell was born in Frisheld County in the State of Smedlicet, istmuly nine years of use five feet inches high, Leste complexion etles Browne war, and by occupation when envolled, a Major Maker GIVEN Mamp. Nouglas, Checafo, this muly Eighth day of 1862. Capt. James & March This sentence will be eraced should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the army. Commanding the Reg c. [A. G. O. No. 90.] State of Michigan COUNTY OF Mason D, Charles of Dawyer thea Clerk of the Corcel Court, in and for said County do hereby egrtify that that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original "Discharge" of Charles Rockwell lute a Corporal of Company (B), 1st regiment of Hechigan as the same appears upon a comparison this day made by me. Witness my hand and Seal of said Court, this 24 .A. D. 1870.

Which is the right Charles Rockwell?

- Let's look at the information we've collected on CR#2 to see if he is the homesteader –
- Homesteader born in CT 1850-1910 census, CR#2 is the only Charles Rockwell living in MI born in CT
- Served in the 56th IL Mechanics CR#2, according to his pension card, served in the 56th IL Mechanics

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What do we know about CR#2?

- Born in Fairfield, Connecticut
- Born September 1832
- 5'10" tall, fresh complexion, blue eyes, brown hair
- Married Lucretia ?
- Parents Charles G. and Sara?
- Both parents born in Connecticut
- Had 6 children, 3 died young
- Served in 56th IL Volunteers, Co. B, Mechanics
- Enlisted Oct. 11, 1861 at Pontiac, MI
- Discharged Jan. 28, 1862 at Camp Douglas, Chicago, IL
- Farmer
- Injured in the Civil War and filed for a pension
- Widow also received a pension
- Moved to Michigan before 1850, lived first in Pontiac, homesteaded in Maple Grove
- Died between May 15, 1910 and Oct. 6, 1911
- Did not have a Civil War gravestone

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Homesteader

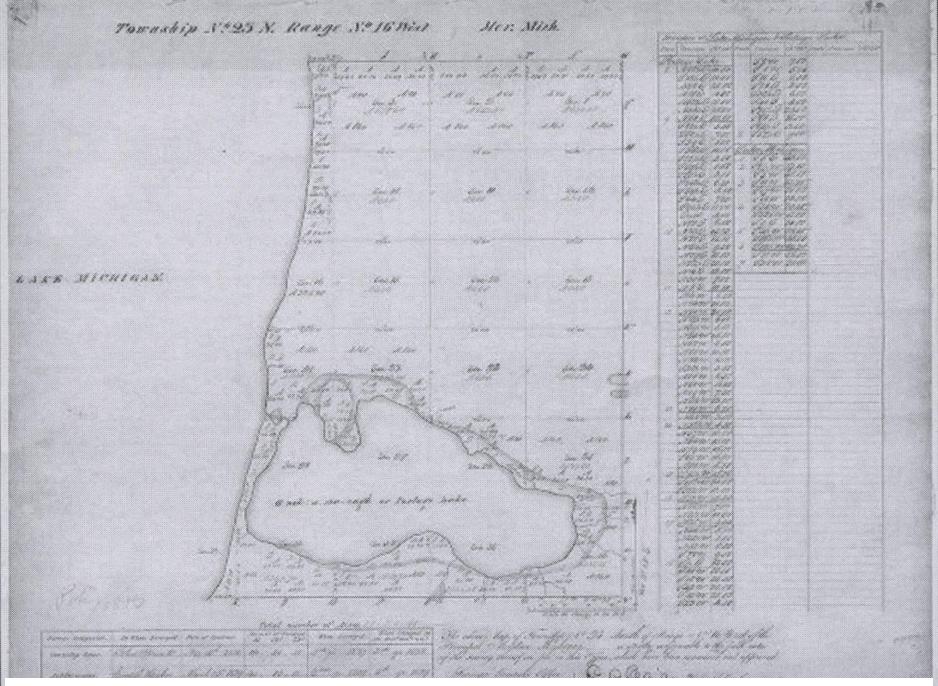
 Just to be absolutely sure that CR#2 is our homesteader, let's look at a map and make sure that the location given in the homestead file is in Maple Grove, Manistee Co.

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Homestead

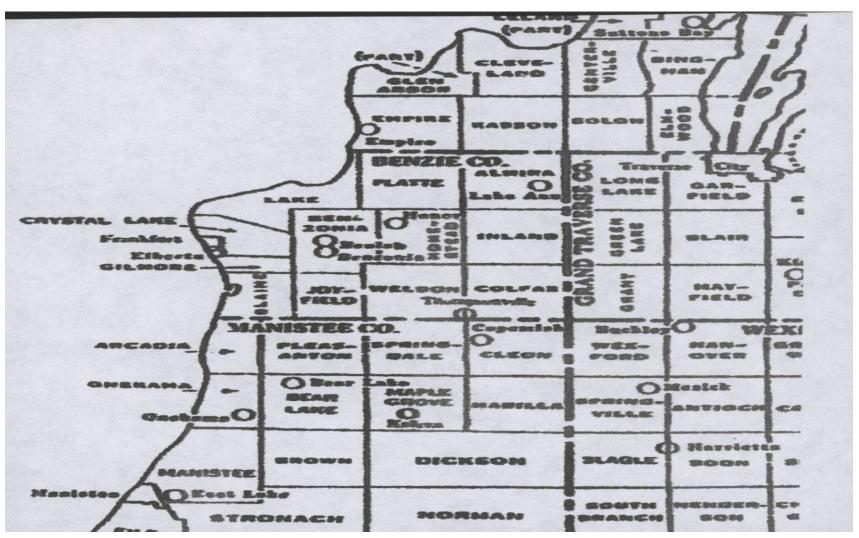
- We see from the map that Manistee Co.'s western border is Lake Michigan.
- Going east from Lake Michigan are Onekama,
 Bear Creek and then Maple Grove
- Plat map for Township 23-N shows it to border Lake Michigan and shows Portage Lake in the bottom left quadrant
- Atlas shows Portage Lake right next to Onekama

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Township Atlas of the United States, Vol. 1



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Conclusions

- So CR#2 was the homesteader!
- If we wanted to continue researching CR#2, what would be our next steps?
 - History of Fairfield, CT
 - Rockwell genealogies, Barbour Collection (CT vital recods)
 - CT State Archives
 - Michigan state census from LDS and 1850-1880 agricultural schedules as well as his pension file

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Questions?

Jean Nudd, Archivist NARA Boston 380 Trapelo Road Waltham, MA 02452 jean.nudd@nara.gov

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Presenter didn't get to your question?

You may email us at inquire@nara.gov