



Joseph Clippinger Gunsmith



By Jane Clippinger (Continued From Last Issue)

Family tradition maintains that, Joseph Clippinger came west from Hagerstown, Maryland to New Carlisle, Clark Co. Ohio, in 1834. As you know the National road (Rt 40 now Interstate 70) passed thru Hagerstown, Md. and ended five miles west of the center of Springfield, Clark Co. Ohio in 1838. After going west a ways, the old road swung north to a town called "Monroe" and later called New Carlisle, Clark Co. Ohio. The Great Miami River and Stillwater River were narrower and easier for the wagons and people to cross at points north of the National Road until bridges were finished.

Clark Co. history on the Clippinger family states that Joseph Clippinger came into the area in 1832 and returned to Hagerstown, Md. and brought the family in 1834. His oldest son Valentine returned to the east and learned cooper-smithing and tinsmithing. A brother of the gunsmith J. Georg Clippinger was a cooper-smith in Greencastle, Franklin Co. Pa.

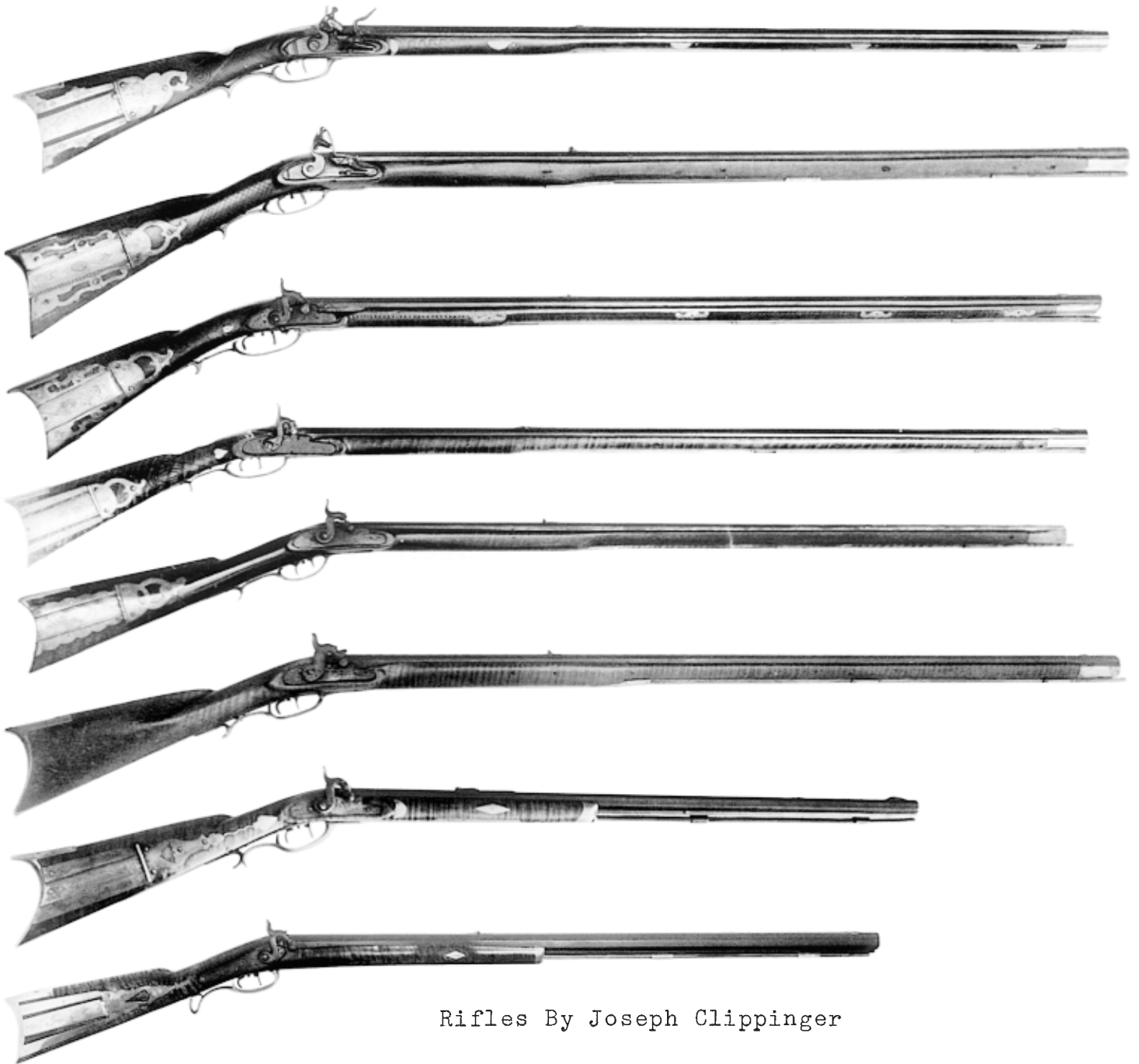
Valentine Bone Clippinger married Catherine Startzman in Hagerstown, Md. They had twelve children. Eight reached adulthood and lived in Cumberland, Md. Valentine worked for the B&O Railroad. In the middle of the Civil War, he

moved his family to New Carlisle, Clark Co. Ohio and two years later to Springfield, Clark Co. Ohio where he died in 1910.

Joseph's second son, Joseph A. Clippinger learned the cobblers trade and made boots during the Civil War in a store room in New Carlisle, Ohio. Joseph A. Clippinger the cobbler was married twice. His first wife was Sarah Bowan (B. 1827 - D. 1868). There were five children of this marriage. His second wife was Elizabeth (Smitley) Minor (B. 1841 Perry Co. Ohio - D. 1913, Springfield, Clark Co. Ohio, and buried in New Carlisle Cemetery.)

By the 2nd marriage there were seven children. In 1877 J. and E. Clippinger moved the family to 120 West Jefferson Street, Springfield, Ohio. The third child, Joseph Grandvill Clippinger had one son Howard Granvill Clippinger, who still lives in the Springfield area. Howard G. has one son and two daughters, three grandsons and three granddaughters. So the Clippinger name will live on.

Let us return to Joseph Clippinger, the gunsmith of new Carlisle, Clark Co. Ohio. Where he lived, and where his shop was, we are not sure. But we were told he lived in a



Rifles By Joseph Clippinger

small house where the Security National Bank now stands on North Main Street. So far we have found no tax list of any property he owned in the area. I find him listed as a gunmaker in the 1840-1850-1860 census. The 1870 census list him as a tolegate keeper. His Grandson Joseph G. Clippinger, a

machinest of Springfield, Ohio always told a story about a grandfather who tended a tolegate outside of New Carlisle, Ohio, on a road that went to Tippcanoe City, Ohio. He kept black snakes around the house. J. Clippinger the gunsmith would whistle, stomp his foot and rock his

rocking chair while holding saucers of milk and bread. The snakes would come from under the porch to him and eat.

The 1880 census listed J. Clippinger as a retired Gunsmith. All of the 1890 census was burned, so we do not know when or where he died. Some say Springfield, Ill., but this is not proven at this time.

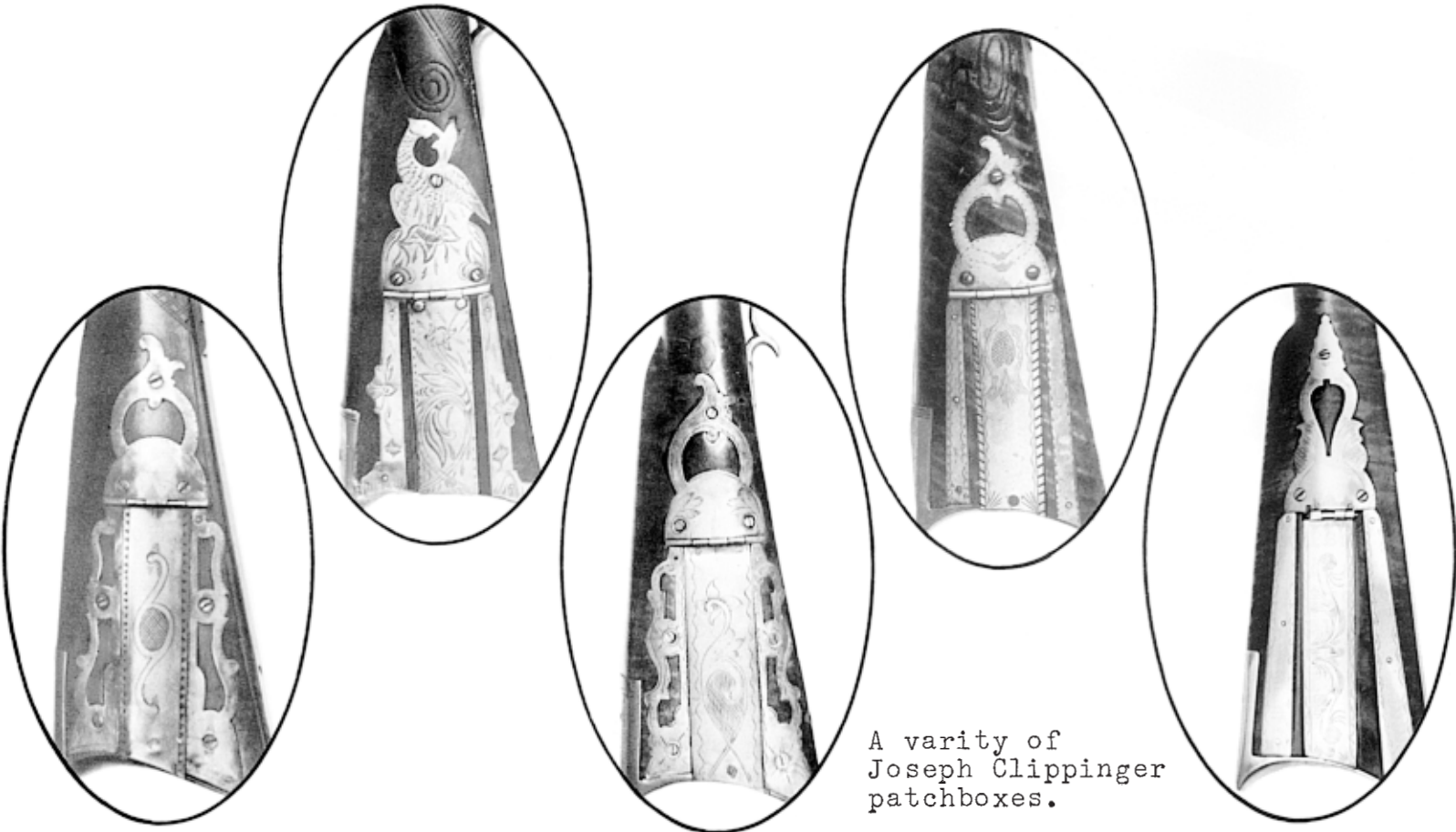
We could never understand, why he did not set up shop in Springfield, Ohio. Upon research in that time period (1832-1834) the town of Springfield, Ohio was full of gunsmiths. Therefore it would not have been profitable for another gunsmith shop.

There are several guns marked J. C. The pistol, a gun Joe Kindig, Jr. has, and two Doc. Hadaway had. Joseph

Clippinger was very careful about the type of wood he chose for his stocks. His design, inlays and placements were very artistic.

The most elaborate Joseph Clippinger gun is a half stock with about 30 silver inlays and is dated. It is engraved and is one of the few with a brass inlay for his name. The rifles he designed have a very nice drop. Riflemen who have shot a Clippinger always speak of how easily they hold on target.

The J. Clippinger's or J*C all vary in length and size of barrel. Appreciate it for its simplicity and its beauty of design. I would like the readers of this article to help me in locating where Joseph Clippinger, the gunsmith may have died and where he and his wife are buried. □



A variety of Joseph Clippinger patchboxes.

Daniel McKinney, Sr. (1744-)

An Ohio Connection???

by James B. Whisker

"Daniel McKinney, Sr., was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1744. (It would then have been part of "West Augusta" Virginia, jbw) He served in the early part of the Revolutionary War, the first two years in the Pennsylvania militia. He was a locksmith and a gunsmith by trade, and, as such, his services were in great demand. About 1778 while he was burning a coal pit near his home, he was captured by the Indians. He left his coal pit to go past some brush and timber to his potato patch to gather potatoes. He gathered the potatoes and was returning to his coal pit when a party of 15 Indians secreted behind a fallen tree top took him prisoner. They took him down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Wabash River, and up that same river for some distance. They kept him with them about a year, and then took him to Detroit, and sold him to the British. He was kept a prisoner about Detroit some time, and one day some man wanted a gun lock repaired. There was a person at Detroit who pretended to do that work, but was not able to do it well. McKinney saw him at work and offered to help. It was then discovered that McKinney was a gunsmith; and the British then required him to make guns for the Indians, their allies in fighting the Americans. They gave him 2 pounds a day to make gun barrels and to finish guns; but he was shut in prison every night. He made the guns, but he spoiled every barrel so that they could not be relied upon to shoot his countrymen. It is supposed that he made about 250 guns and spoiled them all but

one. There was one Indian who knew what a good gun was, and he got onto McKinney's scheme; he told him that he would not betray him if he would make him a perfect gun, which McKinney did. It is said that the Indians used one of McKinney's guns and shot 17 times at General Washington, but did not hit him once. McKinney remained a prisoner at Detroit until about 1783, when he was released. He went back to Pennsylvania and was married to Millie Douthett. They had the following children: Theodore, born 1785; Daniel, Jr., born 1787; and Cynthia, born 1789 (married Nathaniel Skinner). The second wife was Mary Hodnett. She bore him the following children: Solomon, James, Thomas, Charles and William...." Evans, History of Scioto County, Ohio, pp.130-31

Another (family) account has Daniel and his two brothers, Archibald and James, being born in Ireland. Daniel married Parmelia Douthitt, and had 4 children, the youngest being John, born in 1788. In 1788 Daniel McKinney, blacksmith, and his wife, Parmelia, sold land in Washington County. It is believed that Daniel was again captured by Indians in 1790, and this time his wife believing (or hearing reported) that he was dead, left, went to Kentucky, and remarried (actually bigamy). Parmelia died in Kentucky in 1834. The Revolutionary War records merely listed him as an "artificer" and say that he was a prisoner, but don't say when or where or how long, or what type of artificer he was. □

Simon Greensky

Indian Minister At Oscoda, Michigan

Submitted By John Wyse

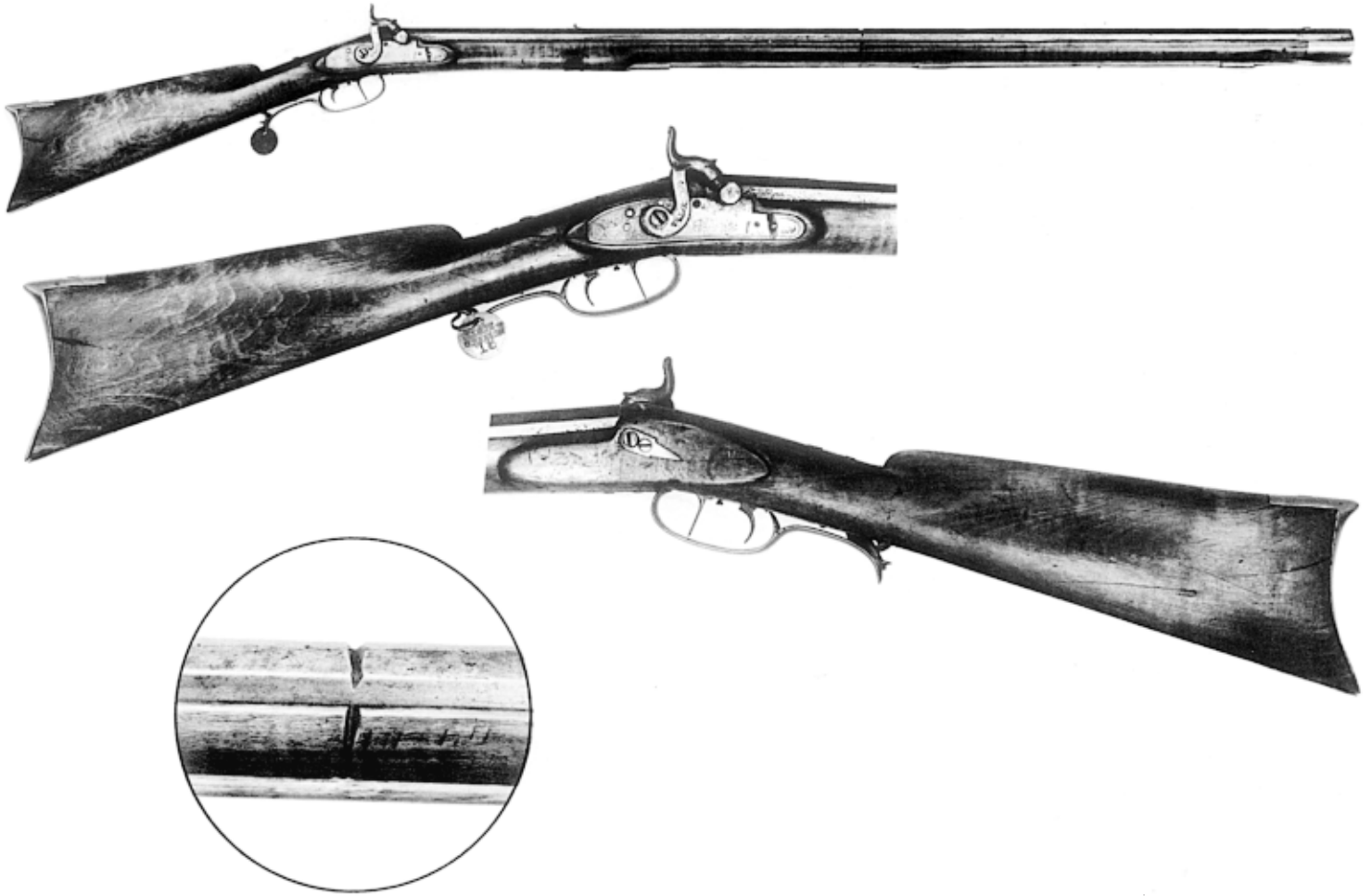
As Told By Mr. Bain

This historical gun was presented to the writer some twelve to fifteen years ago, probably about 1925, at the same time, telling me that he wanted to keep it as long as he could, adding that the gun had been in the Greensky family for years and while he hated to part with it, he had heard much about my collection of guns and the care I gave them and he decided he wanted me to have the rifle that for many years had been his joy and his pride. Only a few years ago, when he last met me he said, Mr. Bain, I am getting very old and I noticed that my grand children came near to spoiling my rifle, by trying to file it in two, as they said to make a rabbit gun, so I think you had better take the gun home with you on this trip, which I did, but not till I had paid his married son \$3.00 for what he called taking care of the gun. It is a beautiful and well-kept gun and highly prized by the writer.

During our annual fishing trips to Vanetten Lake, five miles north of the little town, Oscoda, we were very fortunate, both for our part, and the Indians that made up Rev. Greensky's Church members. On different occasions, we found they were having their annual "Pow-wow" or meeting in the woods near the Church where Mr. Greensky preached. On a beautiful shaded knoll they had erected a large platform on which they gave their entertainments and different Indians

would preach. Just in front of this platform or Alter, leaving a space of about three feet, a pole cut from a green tree about twenty feet long and made smooth by removing the bark rested in two forks, securely placed in the ground directly in front of the platform, when the invitation was given, the Indians, both men and women, would while the choir was singing, walk forward and kneel at the Alter and in their Indian tongue would carry on their mourning, talking, crying, and pleading. This program was repeated every meeting and would last nearly a half hour, after the sermon had been delivered. The Indians would come from a great distance to attend these annual meetings. Mr. Greensky or some other minister would always come to our cottage and invite us to come to their meetings.

This privilege, we all enjoyed and fully appreciated. At the close of the service a table was placed about the center of the pole or alter, on this table was a plate to receive their donations. It was near the center of the aisle. In a nice way the Minister would thank them in advance for the donation. At this point the ushers would begin at the farthest back seats to direct the people to walk around the side aisles and come back up through the center aisle passing the table and put on their donation. They were then at liberty to leave, if they so desired, few if any left the tent or inclosure,



as they had a curiosity to see what the Oscoda Campers had for them.

They were never disappointed as we always went prepared. Each one of us would place a paper dollar on the plate as we passed. There were generally two automobiles full of the Campers and they really enjoyed their trip to the "Indian Pow-wow meeting."

During this same trip, we would have another treat coming, as we always visited the Indian Cemetery. This was a great privilege to all of our campers. They must be visited to be fully appreciated. One remarkable feature was the decoration of the graves, especially those of the children. Seemingly every toy or trinket that

belonged to the child was deposited on the sand covered grave. Broken dishes of every description, kind, or color was among the other oddities found on the little grave. On one, I noticed all sorts of playthings, dolls, two miniature Santa Clauses, toy animals, vases, bits of, colored glass and every conceivable article that might interest a little child. The Cemetery is located about four or five miles from our cottage or about nine miles from the town, Oscoda. Another oddity to be seen by the southern visitors is the Beaver Dam about a half mile south of the Cemetery. It carries a special history. Rev. Greensky is buried in the Cemetery mentioned above and a very appropriate monument marks his grave. It was purchased by his friends and relatives. □