CASCADE CEMETERY
WALKING TOUR
OF FOUNDERS, VETERANS
& INTERESTING STORIES

BIOGRAPHIES

1. CHARLES RICHARDSON BUTTRICK JR.
1839-1903
Location: Section D

Born in New York, four-year-old Charles R. Buttrick arrived in Ada in a covered wagon with his parents in October 1843. Charles B. and Perlina raised ten children in a farmhouse at 9564 Fulton Street, called Danville Road at that time. Charles R. called himself "Junior" to avoid confusion with his father. Eight members of the pioneer Buttrick family were buried in a family plot in the front yard of the original home. This plot was moved to Ada Cemetery when Fulton Street was widened and paved around 1920. Charles R. was buried in Cascade Cemetery in 1903, the Buttrick monument being the first inside the east entrance.

Buttrick was an adventurer and set off for the goldfields of California around 1858. He returned to Michigan during the Civil War and enlisted in March 1865 in the 16th Michigan Infantry, serving through 1865. At the close of the war, he headed west again, working the silver fields in Idaho, Montana, and Colorado.

In 1872, having returned to Cascade, Charles R. bought acreage in Section 14 and married Mrs. James W. (Rosetta Webster) Washburn, a widow with one son, Homer Washburn.

Charles R. Buttrick was a successful nurseryman having started Kent County Pomona Nurseries in partnership with W. J. Watterson. The business, located one mile east of the village of Cascade, thrived for twenty years and produced many varieties of nursery stock, especially peaches.

Having lost his wife, Rosetta in 1885, Charles R. married Ella Ann Brown (pictured), widow of Homer Washburn, in 1887. They had five children, and eventually took over the Washburn farm at 3024 Buttrick Avenue.

Both Charles R. and his son Charles V. (married Ella Thomas) and their wives were involved in school boards, church work and township politics. In the 1940's Charles V. owned and operated the Buttrick General Store, now the Gathering Place in Cascade, in partnership with Mr. Yates, and later with his son, Grover B. Buttrick. Grover and his wife, Kathryn, took over the store and operated it from 1950 to 1960. Grover was on the fire department from 1930 to 1974, the last nine years as Fire Chief. Charles V.'s son Harold and his wife, Fran, lived at the Buttrick Avenue farm while Harold worked in real estate.

Buttrick Avenue is a permanent memorial to this pioneering family. The long, scenic route extends from Thornapple River Drive in Ada all the way south to Alaska.

2. JAMES W. WASHBURN
1829-1863
Location: Section D

James Washburn was a Civil War volunteer in Company I, 21st Michigan Infantry. This distinguished unit, which included Captain Charles Belknap, historian and public official in Grand Rapids, mustered in Ionia September 12, 1862.

James W. Washburn died on November 11, 1863 at Chattanooga at the age of thirty-four. He left a widow, Rosetta, who later married Charles R. Buttrick Jr. and a four-year-old son, Homer B. Washburn. Rosetta is buried next to her first husband, each having a separate monument.

3. LINSON BEARD JR.
1833-1891
Location: Section C

Linson Beard Jr. was an early resident of Cascade and a soldier in the Civil War. About 1845, he and his brother, Edgar, a Methodist minister, left their home in Monroe, Connecticut for the wilderness of Cascade, Michigan. The two brothers bought about 160 acres in the vicinity of Cascade Road and Laraway Lake.

The present day subdivision of Beard Farm occupies a part of that land. Ministerial duties often took Edgar away from home so much of the clearing of the land fell to Linson. He was also working as a clerk in Grand Rapids, where he met and married Mary A. Fisk in 1856. The young couple had a daughter, Ella.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Linson, aged twenty-eight enlisted in Company C, 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. The First, sometimes considered Michigan's outstanding regiment, mustered at Marshall and left for the western front in mid-November 1861. A pioneer farming state was a natural source for axe and anvil skill, and the First performed so well it was elevated to regular Army status. Small units restored railway trestles and constructed roads, bridges, pontoons, forts, blockhouses, and saw mills. They also destroyed enemy railroads. Beard was promoted to Full Artificer and served for about a year before mustering out on June 25, 1862 at Nashville TN., honorably discharged for disability with a bad heart.

Beard's wife, Mary, died January 13, 1866. In 1867, he married Sarah Jane Niles, and the couple had two daughters, Nettie H. who died in childhood, and Gertrude May. The couple settled permanently on Beard's farm, making many improvements and being active in the Methodist church and in community affairs. Linson Beard Jr., who suffered from heart trouble for many years, died April 30, 1891. Gertrude May was married to Cornelius S. Koetsier and had a son named Linson. Various members of the Koetsier family occupied the property until 1999.

4. GEORGE SEWARD RICHARDSON
1805-1884
Location: Section D

Born on September 8, 1805, in Cheshire Co., New Hampshire, George S. Richardson moved with his parents to Stow, Ohio in 1819. For four years, Richardson was involved in the paper manufacturing trade, but later moved his focus to agriculture. He farmed for almost fifty years in Ohio and accumulated a fine property. He married Mary Evert in 1833 and they had three children: Mary L., George S. Jr., and Flora G.

In 1869, Richardson, a prosperous, semi-retired farmer, brought his family to property he had purchased in Cascade. George S. served as Justice of the Peace and generously donated land for Cascade Christian Church, even though he was never a member of that organization. His gift of one hundred dollars helped the church organize, and later he gave more land for the parsonage and a half lot for a drive to the horse sheds.

George Richardson's greatest service to the township came in 1869 when he purchased land and platted it into what we now know as the village of Cascade. In 1871 Richardson sold his farm and settled in the village. In 1876 he planted one hundred trees in the village in honor of the U.S. Centennial.

Richardson had identical houses built in Cascade Township for his daughters who had married two brothers from Ohio. Mary married George P. Stark, a Cascade storekeeper who was elected to the Michigan Legislature and then to the Senate. Flora married Lewis B. Stark who had a distinguished Civil War record and was a prominent fruit grower. He was also one of the organizers of the Ada Creamery. George Jr. married Lovina Danforth, sister of Dr. Danforth, and they had a son, George H. Richardson.

5. JAMES R. LARAWAY
1837-1896
Location: Section D

The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the lure of inexpensive land drew thousands from the eastern part of the United States to Michigan. From 1820 to the beginning of the Civil War, the population of Michigan increased from 8,765 to 749,113. Among those early arrivals were the Cook, Teeple and Laraway families.

Hiram Laraway and his wife, Mary (Teeple) Laraway came to Cascade from Washtenaw County around 1837, with their children: Lydia, William, John, and James R. an infant. The couple purchased 180 acres in Section 9 of the township, in the area of Cascade Road and Laraway Lake Road. Hiram, discouraged by the hardships of pioneer life and by the Panic of 1837, moved his family back to the east side of the state for about two years before returning to their Cascade property. During the winter of 1840 (approx.), Hiram lost his way in the forest between Ada and Cascade and froze to death leaving Mary to care for the farm and her growing family.

Through the years, the Laraway family grew and prospered. By 1859 all three sons "worked out" as farm laborers to help support the family, while attending school and living with their mother.

Lydia married Peter Lawyer in 1842, and by 1857 they were parents of at least six children. William had a stonecutting business in Grand Rapids where he married Harriet Fisk in 1867. John H. Laraway, a mason by trade, worked for Orleans Spaulding in Paris Township. He went on to serve his country during the Civil War by enlisting in Company A, 3rd Michigan Infantry, on May 13, 1861, along with his brother-in-law, Peter Lawyer. John was awarded the Kearney Cross for his participation in the Battle of Chancellorsville. After Chancellorsville, John was hospitalized with intermittent fever. He eventually rejoined his regiment and re-enlisted December 24 1863 at Brandy Station, Virginia, crediting Grand Rapids. After the war, John Laraway returned to Kent County and resumed his occupation as a mason. John never married. He settled in Cascade in 1893 and is buried in Cascade Cemetery.

James Laraway helped his mother manage their farm, doing much of the clearing and heavy work. He planted a peach orchard, which became highly profitable. In 1863, he married Sallie Ann Patterson, daughter of James and Nancy (Davies) Patterson with whom he had two children: Odessie and J. Clyde. After his mother died in 1869, following a fall from a cherry tree, James continued to live on the farm, eventually increasing the acreage to 180 acres that included a natural fishpond. He died in 1896 at the age of fifty-eight.

Gordon Laraway, who lived at 6464 Cascade Road at the intersection of Laraway Lake Road, was the last Laraway directly related to the old Cascade family. He passed away in 1991 and is buried in Cascade Cemetery. Both the road and Laraway Lake at the site of the original acreage are today's landmarks of the Laraway family.

6. REV. ERIE PRINCE
Approx.1797-1862
Location: Section D

Erie Prince of Ohio bought property in Section 9 of Cascade on November 9, 1832 and eventually settled on the south side of the river in the village of Cascade. He was one of the first settlers to purchase land in the area.

In 1849, Erie Prince brought a small stock of Yankee notions to a log house just across the Thornapple River and opened a grocery to serve those whose nearest trading post was Grand Rapids. He soon identified himself with the religious and educational needs of the young community. He served as School Inspector, and up to the time of his death, worked actively in the Sunday-school cause, as Superintendent in the different neighborhoods that grew up around the first group of settlers. On October 6, 1853 he spoke before the Kent County Agricultural and Horticultural Society in Grand Rapids. About the year 1856, he is said to have donated to the township the land occupied by Cascade Cemetery in section 16.

George Gorham was taken into the Prince household as a small child and raised by the kindly Presbyterian minister and his wife. He later inherited the Prince property, currently the site of St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 2965 Wycliffe Drive near Cascade Cemetery.

In Erie Prince's Will and Testament he disowned his wife and son and left all his worldly goods to his son, George Gorham. The document also directs that he should be buried in an unmarked grave in Cascade Cemetery. Although his grave is actually marked by a small, flat stone in the Gorham plot, when the leaves fall from the oak tree overhead and cover the stone, Erie Prince gets his way.

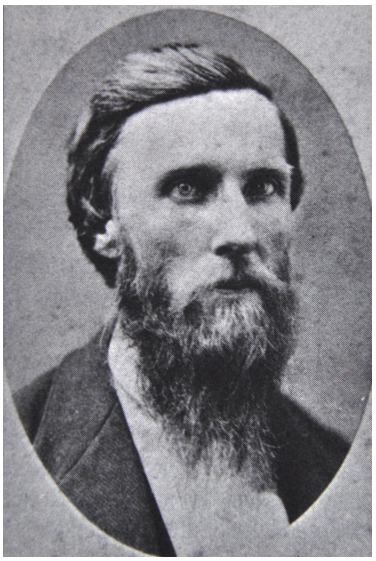
7. GEORGE GORHAM
1831-1919
Location: Section D

Born in 1831 in Plymouth, Michigan, George Gorham was taken into the Erie Prince household as a small child and raised by the minister and his wife. Having inherited the Prince property, Gorham farmed the land and was active in the community. He served for several years as Treasurer of Cascade Township and later became Township Clerk. Around 1900, township records were lost when his house burned.

George Gorham married Lucy M. Johnson, daughter of Jonathan and Thankful Johnson. They had a daughter, Nettie Irene who married George M. Patterson.

Gorham left his eighty acres to his daughter. Eventually Mrs. Mary Wykes purchased the property. After her death, her son, Roger Wykes had the property platted and engaged a land development company (Trentman Real Estate Co. of Witchita, Kansas) to sell it. The subdivision was designed with a nine-hole golf course on 30th Street, just across from Cascade Cemetery, and pipes were laid to three greens. When the Depression hit, property sales and building activity dwindled and work on the golf course stopped. Some of the lots were sold, but only two houses had been built, and the Trentman Company withdrew. Roger Wykes remodeled the cottage into a year-round home. Later, it was bought by St. Michael's Mission and became part of its sanctuary and parish house. In 1970 it was torn down when the new St. Michael's Episcopal Church complex was built on Wycliffe Drive.

8. EDGAR R. JOHNSON
1832-1913
Location: Section D



Born in New York 1832 as the son of Jonathan and Thankful (Wolcott) Johnson, Edgar Johnson moved with his family to Fitchville, Ohio when he was two years of age. At nineteen years of age, having passed grade school, he taught school for a term, and clerked for a year. His uncle, Jefferson Johnson, lived in Cascade Township. He invited Edgar's family to move to Cascade, which they did in 1852, first locating temporarily on a tract of wilderness. Edgar paid for an eighty-acre farm in section 17 to help out his father, a tailor by trade. Edgar spent his summers clearing the heavily wooded land at what is now Burton Street near Cascade Road. His father died there at age seventy-three, and his mother at sixty-one.

For sixteen winters after settling here, Edgar taught school, chiefly in Cascade and Ada. He developed a fine reputation as a teacher of Latin, algebra, and astronomy. He had advanced scholars, many of whom were older than himself, and large classes, sometimes having fifty students. In his early days as a teacher he received $18 per month of twenty-six days, and "boarded around". In later days, he made up to $40 per month, using his earnings to pay for the farm. Johnson passed the greater part of his early days in study, his intention being to prepare himself for the medical profession. Circumstances intervened to prevent him carrying out his plan, and so he became a somewhat successful general farmer, though he never claimed to be an up-to-date agriculturalist.

In 1861, Edgar married Marion Holt, a native of New York and daughter of Henry and Mary (DeWitt) Holt. The Holt family had moved to Cascade when Marion was eleven years old. Marion was also a schoolteacher for several years in Kent County. Edgar and Marion did not have any children of their own, but they took in Robert D. Fox when he was five years old. Robert married Ada Wing, who died four weeks after giving birth to their daughter, Beulah Joy Fox. Robert and his daughter continued to live at the farm. Robert helped with the farm operations, and Beulah was the joy of the household.

Edgar Johnson and his wife were active members of the Church of Christ, where he was an elder. He also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. Edgar was elected Township Supervisor twelve times between 1860-1880. He also served five years as Township Clerk and several years as School Inspector. Johnson was a Republican and acted as a delegate for his party to county, district, and state conventions. At the 1882 District Republican Convention held in Ada, E.R. Johnson was nominated as a candidate for the state legislature.

9. GIDEON H. DENISON
1802-1873
Location: Section C

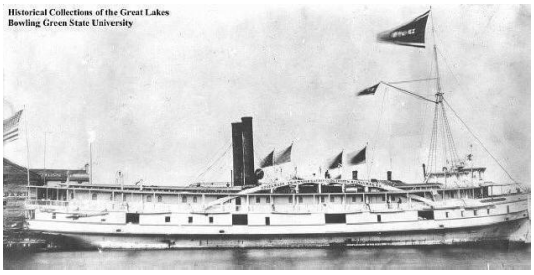
Born in Connecticut, and having lived in New York, Gideon H. Denison moved his family to Jackson County, Michigan in 1835. In the spring of 1845, Gideon Denison accompanied his brother, Asa W. Denison and his family to Cascade. He was looking for a homestead in Cascade, to which he brought his family the following year.

The Denison brothers came to join settlers on the west side of the Thornapple. Coming in on the old State Road, from Battle Creek to Grand Rapids, the teams, women, and children of the company waited at Ezra Whitney's public house for the road to be cleared between that point and the river. Theirs were said to be the first teams that ever passed over the road.

The Denison Brothers both settled on Cascade Road. Gideon's farm was adjacent to the village at the corner of Cascade Road and 28th Street. When the township of Cascade was organized on April 3, 1848, Asa Denison was elected as the first Treasurer and went on to serve as Supervisor and Clerk. Gideon served as Township Supervisor from 1855 to 1857 and 1859.

Gideon and his wife, Christina (Dibble), had seven children. One of their sons, William Wheeler Denison, served his country in the Civil War. In the spring of 1861 while in Wisconsin on a 'land-looking' expedition, the thirty-one–year-old heard President Lincoln's call to arms and enlisted in Company A, 1st Heavy Artillery, Wisconsin. His letters to his brother, Henry C., can be read in "Cascade Chronicles". His letter dated 1862 portrays his frustration with the monotony of garrison life while charged with the protection of Washington D.C. William achieved the rank of Corporal, but like many veterans, he became chronically ill during the war and was given a disability discharge March 19, 1864. William received a monthly pension of $8, which was increased to $25 on May 6, 1867. He passed away from his disability on August 7, 1867, leaving no widow or children. William is buried next to his father, mother, and other Denison family members.

Gideon and Christina moved to Ottawa County in the late 1860's where they both passed away. Christina died in Spring Lake in 1881, her husband having tragically died in the sinking of the steamer Ironsides in 1873.



On September 14, 1873 the Ironsides set out from Milwaukee at 9:45 P.M. with nineteen passengers and a crew of about thirty. She was carrying a cargo of wheat, flour, pork, and assorted general merchandise. A moderate southwest breeze was blowing. Before dawn, a full gale was howling across Lake Michigan, and the Ironsides was laboring so hard she began to take on water. Captain Harry Sweetman tried twice to bring the ship safely through Grand Haven channel. She bottomed out on the beach causing damage that allowed even more water to enter the hold. Captain Sweetman aborted the third attempt and backed away from the beach, but the damage had already been done. Despite the efforts of the pumps, the water put out the fires under her boilers. She rolled helplessly in the trough of the waves, and by 9:00 A.M. she had started to sink. At about 11:00 A.M, five lifeboats were launched. Only two reached shore. The other three capsized in the surf. The Ironsides sank about three miles off the Grand Haven coast at 12:10 P.M. September 15. About twenty lives were lost, including seventy-one year old Gideon Denison.

10. HENRY C. DENISON
1834-1905
Location: Section C

Born in Oneida County, New York, Henry Clay Denison was one of the seven children born to Gideon and Christina Denison. Henry C. was ten years old when he arrived in Cascade with his family.

Henry married Helen E. Tobias of Cascade in 1858. Out of their eight children, five died, three of diphtheria and two in infancy. The surviving children were Minnie C., Nina F., and Perry M.

Henry Denison became a farmer and bought property on what is now Buttrick Avenue (2150). During his mid-life, Henry kept a journal of everyday events, along with a ledger listing the earnings and expenses of his farm. Numerous accounts from the journals and ledgers can be found in "Cascade Chronicles" detailing family and community gatherings, farm chores, horse and buggy expeditions and so on. The existing journal begins January 1, 1880, when he was forty-five years old and ends December 31, 1889, when he was fifty-five. The ledger starts with yearly inventories in 1866, ending in 1898. He invariably lists the day of the week and the weather. He gives his time of rising in the morning – once as early as 4:20 but usually 5:30 or 6:00, summer or winter. On Sundays he stayed in bed until 6:30 or 7:00. The journals give a fascinating insight into the hardships and joys of pioneer life.

Denison was fond of education and took advanced subjects from Edgar Johnson. He was an active member the Cascade community and held many public offices. He served as Township Supervisor for three years, Clerk for six years, School Inspector for three years, as well as Superintendent of Schools and Justice of the Peace. He even played the part of Santa Claus at the Baptist Church in Ada in 1881. In July 1882 Henry was a delegate to the County Republican convention, held in Cascade. There he was appointed to the district convention to be held in Ada. In 1884, Henry was teaching at Strong School located across the street from his farm on Buttrick, just south of Bolt, earning $35 a month.

Minnie married William F. Bole, and Nina married Edwin Baxter Brigham who worked in the lumber camps of Osceola County where Nina was a teacher. Perry, whose wife was also named Minnie, was the director of Strong School from 1911 to 1916. He was also the Rural Free Delivery mail carrier, efficiently handling the extremely large Route No. 3. "Cascade Chronicles" is dedicated to Perry Denison.

11. FRANCES E. CAMPAU
1850-1933
Location: Section C

Frances E. Campau was born in Grand Rapids to Toussaint Campau and Emily V. (Marsac) Campau. Her parents were both born in Detroit of French descent and are buried in St. Andrews Catholic Cemetery in Grand Rapids along with numerous members of the Campau family.

Two Campau brothers married two Marsac sisters. Louis Campau was the founding father of the city of Grand Rapids. Having fought in the War of 1812, he established a fur trading post in Saginaw and in 1826 with a government license to engage in Indian trade, he established a trading post along the banks of the Grand River in what is now Grand Rapids. In about 1831 he bought what is currently the entire business district of Grand Rapids from the federal government for $90. When Louis' first wife, Anna, died he married Sophie deMarsac of Detroit. She only spoke French, so she invited her sister Emily V. (also called Victoria E.) to come keep her company.

Emily fell in love with Louis' younger brother, Toussaint, and they were married in 1834. Toussaint was the youngest of ten children of Louis Campau Sr. and Therese (Moran) Campau of Detroit. Toussaint and two other brothers, George and Antoine, came to the Grand Rapids area to work as traders with the Indians and bought large tracts of land. Toussaint fought for the Union during the Civil War. He enlisted as a Private in Company E, 1st Michigan Light Artillery in January 1864, mustering out October 1864.

Toussaint and Emily Campau had seven children: Victoria S., Adolphe T., Victoria E., Ann, Frances E., Louis N., and Alfred. Frances married Remy Barben Barbin in 1866. Her second marriage in 1878 was to Dr. Mortimer W. Danforth, a native of Ohio practicing medicine in Cascade. Dr. Danforth's first wife, Adaline A., had died in 1875 aged twenty-six and is buried next to her husband, along with their infant son.

Mortimer W. and Frances had four children: Mortimer E., Beatrice (married W.W. Kinginger of Canton, Ohio), Ethel, and Sadie, both of whom died young. The Danforth homestead was located in the heart of Cascade Village where the International Beverage store now stands at the intersection of Cascade Road and Orange Street. The Proctors later used the house as a chicken dinner place.

Frances Campau Danforth died in Canton, Ohio, on November 15, 1933 at the age of eighty-three, having received her husband's military pension since his death in 1895. She is buried next to Dr. Danforth, her gravestone reading "Mother", in front of the Danforth monument that includes her memorial.

12. DR. MORTIMER W. DANFORTH
1842-1895
Location: Section C

Mortimer Wiliiam Danforth was born in Hudson, Ohio. He became a prominent doctor in Cascade and fought for the Union cause during the Civil War.

Danforth joined Company G, 115th Ohio Infantry on August 4, 1862 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1864. In December 1864, Sgt. Danforth's regiment was stationed at blockhouse #3 on the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad. Their mission was to prevent Confederates from destroying the rails. Outnumbered, Danforth and his men were captured and sent to the infamous Andersonville, Georgia, prison where nearly 13,000 Union soldiers died. Danforth survived and was transferred out April 30, 1865 just weeks after the war's end. Other less fortunate members of his regiment were placed on the Steamer Sultana which exploded on the Mississippi River killing more than 1,800 returning Union former prisoners of war.

Danforth mustered out of the army on June 13, 1865 returning to his childhood home in Ohio. He studied medicine with his father, Horace Danforth M.D. and attended lectures at Philadelphia Medical College. In 1870, shortly after graduating, he moved to Cascade and practiced medicine there until his death. His sister, Lovina, was married to George Seward Richardson Jr. and resided in Cascade.

Having lost his first wife, Adeline A., Dr. Danforth married Frances E. Campau in 1878. They had four children: Mortimer E., Beatrice, Ethyl, and Sadie. Mortimer E. became a physician and served as a WWI Field Medic. He and his wife, Daisy (Robbins) had a son, Robert E. Danforth, who also became a doctor and served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. And so three generations of Danforths served in three different wars, and they are all buried in Cascade Cemetery.

Dr. M.W. Danforth was a well-respected physician and visited patients as far away as Cannonsburg, Caledonia, Alto, and Lowell in a two-wheel cart. He also sold gravel at twenty-five cents per load. His large red barn was a landmark for many years across the street from Cascade Christian Church. Dr. Danforth was paid $15 for his medical testimony at the inquest of the Brockaway murder.

Dr. Mortimer William Danforth died April 17, 1895 from consequences of the Civil War. He was fifty-two years old

13. JOHN M. PATTERSON
1847-1927
Location: Section C

John M. was a member of the pioneer Patterson family and a Civil War veteran. He was the eldest of six children of Chancy (or Chauncy) Patterson and Sarah (Dickson) Patterson who married on Christmas Day in 1845.

John's father, Chancy, was thirteen years old in 1837 when he arrived in Cascade with his mother, Rachel Patterson, and eight of his nine siblings. Their father, Robert had passed away in Washtenaw County in 1831, having moved his family from New York to Michigan Territory. Robert Patterson had been a soldier in the War of 1812 and died at age forty-four. Undaunted, Robert's widow acquired forty acres in Paris Township, now known as the city of Kentwood. She was greatly helped by her son, Miner, who set about clearing the land for cultivation. Son Chancy was also hardworking and eventually owned four hundred acres. He and his wife, Sarah, raised six children: John M, William H., Chauncy Irving, George M., Ida May, and Nellie M.

John M. Patterson was just sixteen years old and living at home at the old homestead when he enlisted in Company E, 3rd Michigan Infantry. He was involved in engagements at Nashville and Murfreesboro. Patterson survived the war and returned to Michigan to farm. In 1873 he married Louisa Auble and they had nine children: Nellie E., Fred, Sarah, Byron, John, Leroy, Arthur, Louis, and Louise. Patterson's wife, Louisa, died in 1894 at the age of forty-six. He married Flora Isabelle (Cleland) in 1897. Son Byron became a sheriff and Kent County Drain Commissioner. Youngest son Louis (Lu) died in a railroad accident at the age of twenty-five. Many Patterson family members are buried in Cascade Cemetery.

Patterson Road, a major county artery extending from east Burton Street southward and forming much of the western boundary of Cascade Township, is a lasting memorial to the Patterson family.

14. VETERANS MEMORIAL
Location: Section C

The War Memorial pays tribute to veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It reads:
"To honor these men of Cascade Township who gave their lives that we might remain a free people".

World War I: William A. Watterson & Harold D. Watterson (Cascade Cemetery, Section C), Peter L. Jasperse and Gilbert Corson.

World War II: James C. Jasperse, Edward W. McDonald and Louis G. Criner.

Korean War: Daniel D. Mast (Cascade Cemetery, Section C) and Curtis G. Osmer (Cascade Cemetery, Section A).

Vietnam War: PFC Christopher E. Clay, Army, was killed in action in Vietnam 1968, aged approx. twenty-two. (Cascade Cemetery, Section C)
Sgt. Melvin R. Thomas, Army, died 1970 in Cambodia aged twenty from injuries received while a passenger on a military aircraft on a landing zone when the area came under attack by a hostile force. (Cascade Cemetery, Section D)
L.Cpl. Jack A. Zoodsma, Marine, was killed in Vietnam by hostile rifle fire 1970, aged nineteen. (Cascade Cemetery, Section B)

15. CHARLES F. HOLT
1844-1924
Location: Section C

Charles F. Holt was a member of a pioneer family, a Civil War veteran, and founder of the Cascade Mineral Springs Hotel. Born in New York, he was one of seven children of Henry Holt and his second wife, Mary (DeWitt) Holt, the elder Holt's wife Larancy having died leaving him with three small children. Charlie was eight years old when his family settled in Cascade. His father had gone ahead and purchased 450 acres of land along the Thornapple River just north of the village. Charlie's brother Henry H. finished law school in the east, settled in Muskegon, and was twice elected Lieutenant Governor.

In August 1864, while his father visited relatives in the east, twenty-year-old Charles enlisted in Company E, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. His grandfather, Nehemiah Holt had served in the Revolutionary War and participated in the battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights, Trenton, and Princeton. Like many Civil War soldiers, Charlie Holt came home from the war broken in health. He had a lung infection, and doctors held little hope for his recovery. He did in fact recover and believed this was the result of his frequent consumption of the mineral spring water in the river by his home.

Charles and his wife Nellie (pictured) developed a plan for a mineral springs resort as these were becoming popular in the Midwest at the time. They platted a small scenic village called Cascade Springs in 1890. Here they located a luxury hotel on the banks of the Thornapple, about half a mile north of the bridge. This was the three-story, fifty room Cascade Magnetic Mineral Springs Hotel and it was completed in 1891. For a time it was one of Michigan's most popular spas, attracting guests from all over the country. Besides lovely scenery and healing spring waters, guests could enjoy croquet, tennis, dancing, and bass fishing. Charles Holt had convinced the Michigan Conservation Commission to raise their bass stock at the Thornapple River where there was an abundant natural supply. Unfortunately success was short-lived for the Cascade Springs Hotel, and it closed around 1912. The building was razed and the lumber sold.

Charles F. Holt did not have children, but there are many members of the esteemed Holt family buried in Cascade Cemetery.

16. HUGH B. BROWN
1829-1905
Location: Section C

Hugh B. Brown, patriarch of the pioneer Brown family, was born in Scotland. He came to Cascade by way of Canada in about 1840. The family purchased 160 acres on what is now Kraft Avenue, south of the railroad tracks. Hugh married Harriet Lewis who was born in London. Their son, William B. Brown, was a Kent County Circuit Judge for forty-two years. Their daughter, Ellen, married Richard Slater.

The Brown family can trace their membership of Cascade Christian Church back to 1879. Hugh Brown was also involved in local politics, serving as Justice of the Peace. As a justice, he officiated over the sensational Brockaway murder trial in 1886. When the body of a man was found next to the bridge near the Cascade Hotel, all evidence pointed to a man named Brockaway. The two had been seen arguing over drinks in the hotel earlier. Witnesses were paid various amounts for their testimony at the inquest, held in the Grange Hall. Brockaway was fined when found guilty.

17. WILLIAM J. WATTERSON
1851-1928
Location: Section C

William J. Watterson was a prominent nurseryman and Cascade Township Supervisor. He came to Cascade from Ohio in 1851 as an infant with his parents, John and Harriet (Webster) Watterson. His father, a miller by trade, had come to Ohio from his native Isle of Man at the age of twenty-one. John bought acreage in Cascade and became a farmer. He also started mills in Ada and Grand Rapids.

William completed his education by the age of twelve. He worked at his father's mills and having a great interest in growing things, spent ten years at the Grand River Nursery in Lowell. At the end of that time he formed a successful partnership in the Kent County Pomona Nursery with Charles Buttrick. They grew many varieties of nursery stock, especially peaches, for the wholesale market. When Charles Buttrick died, Watterson bought out his share of the Pomona Nursery and sold the company. He established a successful nursery business in Section 9 that included vegetables, flowers, and berries. Watterson was also associated with the Michigan State Nursery and became one of the best-known men in this field in the state.

In addition to being a prominent nurseryman, Watterson was a respected auctioneer and served as Township Supervisor for several years. He was also an ardent Democrat for about twenty years and a delegate of his party to county, district, and state conventions.

William Watterson married Minnie A. Smith in 1874, and they had eight children: John G., Clyde G., Lettie, Dessie, Lottie, Henry, William A., and Harold E.

Clyde was proprietor of the grocery store in the village. His son, Philip, during his term as Supervisor helped establish the local branch of Kent County Library. Lettie, Dessie, and Lottie all died young. Two of William and Minnie Watterson's sons died in World War I. William A. was killed at Jametz, France on November 10, 1918, the day before the armistice was signed. Harold D., who had studied at the University of Michigan, died in Ann Arbor on November 24, 1918.

18. RICHARD J. SLATER
1856-1944
Location: Section C

Born in Vermont, Richard J. Slater was three years old when his family came to Michigan and settled on a farm in Paris Township. Richard's father, pioneer farmer George Slater, also owned eighty acres in Cascade Township, which Richard later bought from him.

Hardworking like his father, Richard developed a reputation as a progressive scientific farmer and was the first to introduce riding cultivators into the township. He also served two terms as Justice of the Peace. The Slaters acquired the Gideon Denison farm, adjacent to the village, at the corner of Cascade Road and 28th Street. Here they conducted general farming as well as dairy farming. Richard Slater was one of the original stockholders of the Ada Creamery to which he sent the milk from his farm. The Slaters also owned the gravel pits across the road.

Richard Slater married Hugh Brown's daughter, Ellen, in 1883. They raised four children in Cascade: Hugh A., Bessie E., and twins Leon B. and Lura B. They lost three children in infancy. Hugh and his wife Lydia (Cook) became missionaries. Their son, Paul, was Township Treasurer for many years. The Slaters were long-standing members of Cascade Christian Church.

19. HENRY C. KOETSIER
1874-1935
Location: Section B

Henry C. Koetsier and his wife, Abbie (DeWitt) Koetsier, seen here on their wedding day March 13, 1901, raised eleven children on a farm on the southeast corner of Burton Street and Kraft Avenue. Henry was known as "Doc" Koetsier because of his veterinary skill and the fact that he personally delivered all of his own children. In later years, Doc ran a dairy, milking the cows, cooling and bottling the milk, and then delivering it to his customers around Cascade and Ada.

Henry and Abbie are buried in a family plot along with five of their children. Four other children of theirs are also buried in Cascade Cemetery: Edward Koetsier, Gertrude Ekkel, Henrietta Larink, and Edith Den Houter, the last surviving sibling who passed away in 2007. Two of Henry's brothers, Evart and Cornelius (husband of Gertrude May Beard) are also buried in Cascade. Abbie's parents and brothers, the DeWitts are buried in the far southeastern corner of the cemetery. The Dewitts lived at 5298 Burton, which was the next corner west from Burton Street and Kraft Avenue.

20. PETER TEEPLE
1797-1878
Location: Section A (Cook Cemetery)

Born in New Jersey, Peter Teeple was one of the first settlers to come to Cascade Township. He and his brother, George Teeple, and their families arrived from Plymouth, Wayne County, in January 1837.

Government land was plentiful and cheap at $1.25 an acre, and Peter Teeple bought 700 acres. The brothers chose land on the western edge of the township near first settler, Lewis Cook, who had persuaded them to come to Cascade. George Teeple was married to Lewis' niece, Samantha Cook, and their sister, Mary Teeple, was married to Hiram Laraway.

Lewis Cook had been married to another Teeple sister, Sarah, but remarried after her death and was living at what is now the northeast corner of 28th Street and Patterson. In 1849 a Township Board of Health established a burying ground on the Lewis Cook farm where the southeast corner of the Cook farm in Section 7 meets the northeast corner of the Teeple farm in Section 18. Cook Cemetery, commonly known as Teeple, was later relocated to the southwest corner of Cascade Cemetery. The six-tenths acre parcel on 28th Street where the burying ground had been was sold and the proceeds used to build a new township hall. The Meijer store was to be constructed at the intersection of I-96 and 28th Street where the cemetery had been. In 1966, under the direction of a special memorial commission and the township board, the graves from Cook Cemetery were relocated and the tombstones placed in the same pattern as before. Sections of the old iron fence set the area apart.

The first town meeting in Cascade was held at Ezra Whitney's Public House on April 3, 1848. Cascade Township was established and the first township board chosen. Peter Teeple was elected as the first Township Supervisor, and was so respected that he returned to office several times in the township's first ten years.

Peter Teeple and his wife, Sarah (Losey) had nine children. Their daughter, Lettie, was seven years old in 1837 when she arrived in Cascade with her family. She later wrote her autobiography containing a personal description of pioneer life, some of which is quoted in "Cascade Chronicles". Lettie's younger brother, Seneca, enlisted in Company K, 16th Michigan Infantry. He fought at Wilderness and all the way to Lee's surrender at Appomattox at which he was present. He is buried in Cook Cemetery along with his parents and many other family members.

21. ELIZABETH “ELIZA” A. COOK
1801-1871
Location: Section A (Cook Cemetery)

In 1836, settlers Lewis Cook and his wife Elizabeth built the first house in the township on what is now 28th Street, near the corner of Patterson Avenue. This was the western boundary of the township. The earliest pioneers preferred the western and southern portions, for here the soil was generally better and nearby Paris Township was already being settled. The Irish settlers came to the area in late 1836. The Teeples arrived in January 1837 followed by Hiram and Mary Laraway later the same year.

Elizabeth and Lewis Cook left New Jersey in 1833 for Senaca County, New York. From there they went to Washtenaw County and by 1836 they had arrived in western Michigan. It was in Cascade Township that they lived out their days, and it is said they were both buried on their farm in Cook (Teeple) Cemetery, which became a part of the Cascade Cemetery in 1966. However, there is no gravestone for Lewis Cook. Elizabeth’s gravestone has been repaired, as has his brother-in-law Peter Teeple’s. Perhaps the Lewis Cook headstone met with some misfortune before the relocation of Cook Cemetery. His name does not appear on the list of graves at Teeple compiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1925.

Three of Lewis Cook’s brothers came to West Michigan: Ezekial; Edward, who married Deborah Ferris (their daughter Samantha married George Teeple); and Jesse who married Rachel Fischer. The latter in turn brought four of their sons to Kent county: William, who married Martia A. (their daughter, Lydia, was raised by her Uncle Abram after both parents died. Lydia married Hugh Slater); Abram who married Maria Patterson; John who married Mary Jane Spaulding; and Sylvester who married Melissa Bailey. In 1862, Sylvester enlisted in the 6th Michigan Cavalry. In 1865, he was charged with patrolling the streets of Washington, D.C. and was in the audience at Ford’s Theater the night Lincoln was shot, though he had left before the tragic event occurred.

22. CHARLES M. NOBBS
1837-1865
Location: Section A (Cook Cemetery)

Private Charles M. Nobbs was born in New York and later came to Michigan with his family, Matthew and Virtue Nobbs who were born in England. Charles is listed on the 1860 census as living with his parents while working as a laborer on his father's farm. On August 12, 1860 he married Martha L. Morrill in Kent County. Martha, died on March 9, 1863 aged nineteen, prior to Charles' enlistment.

Pvt. Nobbs enlisted in Company B, 21st Michigan Infantry on January 21, 1864 at Grand Rapids for three years. He was twenty-six years old. He joined his regiment in Chattanooga, Tennessee on March 11, 1864. Charles transferred to Company I, 14th Michigan Infantry June 9, 1865 and mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky on July 18, 1865. During Charles' enlistment, the 14th Michigan Infantry fought at Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River, Peach Tree Creek, the Siege of Atlanta, the March to the Sea, the Siege of Savannah, and the surrender of Johnston and his army.

Pvt. Charles Nobbs died August 16, 1865 at the age of twenty-eight, within one month of mustering out. He was originally buried next to his wife in Cook (Teeple) Cemetery, which was relocated to Cascade Cemetery in 1966. There are nine others from the 21st Michigan Infantry buried in Cascade Cemetery. Three of the nine were in Charles' Company B. They were Marshall Denison, Ezra Johnson and Henry Wood. One additional 21st Michigan Infantry veteran, William Clark, is buried in Whitneyville Cemetery.

Charles Nobbs was one of three Civil War veterans buried in Cascade Cemetery identified by the Cascade Historical Society as not having a headstone. The other two were Thomas Henefrey and William Henry Marr. The Historical Society worked for over a year on the Civil War grave restoration project. On Memorial Day 2012, the Cascade Historical Society held a public ceremony in Cascade Cemetery to dedicate the newly installed headstones on the graves of these three veterans. The ceremony was led by members of General John A. Logan Camp No. 1 of Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and Champlin Corps No. 41 of the Women's Relief Corp.

Dedication of Charles Nobbs' gravestone,
May 28, 2012, Cascade Cemetery.

WILLIAM AUBLE
1785-1872
Location: Section A (Cook Cemetery)

William Auble was a soldier in the War of 1812. Originally buried in Cook Cemetery, his grave is near that of Charles Nobbs. Born in New Jersey, Auble was seventeen years old when he accompanied his parents on their move to New York. In November 1813, aged twenty-eight, William enlisted in the New York Militia at Ovid, N.Y., substituting for a Mr. Stilwell. He fought under General Winfield Scott at Fort Erie, Black Rock, and Lundy's Lane. Auble was beside his superior officer when General Scott was severely wounded at Lundy's Lane. He saw the general held on his horse when too weak from loss of blood to ride without aid. William Auble was honorably discharged at Batavia, N.Y. on November 20, 1814.

William Auble married Elizabeth "Betsy" Allen. The family arrived in Cascade in 1852, by way of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and settled in Section 30. One of their sons, Pvt. Isaac E. Auble, served in Company H, 6th Michigan Cavalry, during the Civil War, taking part in the Battle of the Wilderness and Gettysburg.