



## ~ Memories ~

Newsletter of the Jenison Historical Association & Museum

[jenisonhistory.org](http://jenisonhistory.org)

28 Port Sheldon, Jenison, Michigan  
49429

### JHA Board Members

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772-6523

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### Contact Information

Museum phone: 457-4398 to leave a message

Email: [info@jenisonhistory.org](mailto:info@jenisonhistory.org)

Facebook: Jenison History Association

### Coronavirus 2020

Like all of you, we are staying home. We miss the museum and all our visitors.

This is a time unlike any we have had in our lifetime, however, many similarities have been made to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. If you are interested, there is an article on Mlive titled: "See how 1918 flu pandemic impacted your Michigan county." It was written by Julie Mack and posted October 15, 2018 and updated September 19, 2019.

How many of you knew that "grippe" was another name for influenza? Family historians would certainly see this word on death certificates for their ancestors.

In 1918 there was this little ditty going around:

"I had a little bird,  
Its name was Enza  
I opened the window  
And in-flu-enza

Stay healthy and we will hopefully see you soon.

**~ 2020 Museum Open Houses ~**

Also available for individuals and groups by appointment. Call the museum at 616-457-4390 or Ken Williams at 774-6523.

**History of Georgetown Library -  
More Than Just Books**

**April - CLOSED**

May 16 - 2 to 4pm  
June 2 - 10 to Noon  
June 20 - 2 to 4pm  
July 7 - 10 to Noon

**Gizmos & Gadgets of the Past**

July 18 - 2 to 4pm  
August 4 - 10 to Noon  
August 15 - 2 to 4pm  
September 1 - 10 to Noon  
September 19 - 2 to 4pm  
October 6 - 10 to Noon  
October 17 - 2 to 4pm  
November 3 - 10 to Noon

**Christmas at the Jenison Museum**

December 5, 2020 - 1pm to 4pm  
January 9, 2021 - 2pm to 4pm

**Monthly Meetings**

Time - **6:45pm**

Location -

**Georgetown Library**

**April - CLOSED**

May 21  
June 18  
July 16  
August 20  
September 17  
October 15  
November 19

No December meeting

**Membership & Volunteering**

Support the local history and museum by becoming a member. A year's dues is just \$10 [Jan. to Dec.].

We are always excited to have new people volunteer. Come to a meeting or open house. We will be happy to show you what we do and how you can join in

We have some very interesting exhibits this year. Please mark your calendars to visit with us. **We will let you know when we reopen.**



**CLAYTON D. TERRELL**  
**Jenison Blacksmith**

Clayton David Terrell was the 7th child born to Adelbert Terrell and Susan Sadler, on January 26, 1876, in Bryon, Kent County, Michigan. Clayton's father, Adelbert, died in 1884 leaving Susan to raise the family. Clayton was just 8 years old and according to the census records only completed the 8th grade. In 1900, Clayton was farming and living with his sister, a widow, and her daughter.

On March 22, 1904, at Grand Rapids, Clayton [age 24], married Ora Adelia Moore [age 18], daughter of George F. Moore and Lania Young, of Cutlerville. A June 1903 Press article about the wedding of Bertha Thompson of Kent City and Albert H. Moore of Bryon, describes the bridesmaid as "Miss Ora Moore, a cousin of the groom" and a "groomsman as Clayton Terrell." Is it possible that this is where Ora and Clayton first met?

Beatrice Terrell, first born child of Clayton and Ora Terrell, was born in Cutlerville in 1905, and George Terrell, 2nd child, was born in 1907 in Jenison. So between 1905 and 1907, Clayton D. Terrell moved his family to Jenison.

On December 16, 1908, the Grand Rapids Press reported a Scarlet Fever outbreak at Jenison. The school was shut down and a strict quarantine was observed. By April 1909, the Grand Rapids Press reported an increase of communicable diseases as such: "Three diphtheria, seven typhoid fever, three measles, one whooping cough, two chickenpox and 21 scarlet fever cases."

By May 1909, scarlet fever arrived in the Terrell home. Clayton and Ora's children, Beatrice, age 4 and George, age 2, had come down with the fever and Ora was pregnant. The home was put under quarantine. Ora's mother, Lania Moore, came to assist the family. The children of Mr. John Ver Straat, Mr. Van Sloten and Mr. Edward De Pute were all quarantined with scarlet fever as well. An article in the Grandville News

reported that the local doctor, Dr. Gervers, called Dr. Maxfield of Hudsonville, and Dr. Wedgewood of Grandville, to the Terrell home for consultation.

Tragically, on Sunday, May 16, 1909, at 3 o'clock in the morning, little George died from scarlet fever. In a twist of fate, that same morning, Ora Terrell gave birth to a baby boy - they named him Charles. One can only imagine the emotions of the family that day and the following weeks. Little George was buried in the Grandville cemetery with other members of Lania Moore's family. Four year old Beatrice recovered.



**TERRELL'S HOME ON BALDWIN - 1910**

Ora's father, George F. Moore, was a blacksmith. Its highly probable that Clayton learn the blacksmith trade from his father-in-law. A November 11, 1909, Grand Rapids Press article states:

"Jenison, Nov. 11 —C. D. Terrell has begun the erection of a cement building which he will occupy as a blacksmith shop. It will be equipped with all appliances for that work. The building will face on Grand Haven street." [Today, Baldwin St.]



His shop was located on the north side of Grand Haven street [now Baldwin] at Mill Ave. with the family's home on the south side of Grand Haven street [now Baldwin] east of Mill Ave. a short distance

Life carried on for the Terrells. In 1912, there was a small ad in the Grand Rapids Press which read:

“Lost — Black and white female hound, answers to the name of Bella.  
Reward for any information of its whereabouts. C. D. Terrell, Jenison”

Bella must have been pretty special!

And their family grew. In addition to Beatrice, George [now deceased] and Charles, there was Ethel, Lorraine, Clayton D. Jr., and Leon. Lorraine was born in 1915 in Jenison and Clayton Jr. was born in Stanton, Montcalm county in 1918, so sometime between 1915 and 1918, Clayton Terrell moved his family out of Jenison to Stanton. At this time, the United States had joined WWI. Clayton's Draft Registration Card of 1918 describes him as “short, medium build, blue eyes and light colored hair”

Sadly, Clayton and Ora lost another son. Leon, who enlisted in WWII., died in 1942 in the New Guinea Campaign. He was just 20 years old. It appears his body was not

recovered but there is a headstone that states “In Memory of Cpl. Leon H. Terrell, 1922 - 1942” in the Winchester cemetery in Byron Center, Michigan.

As late as the 1940 census, Clayton is still listed as a “blacksmith” for the “County Road Commission”. Clayton David Terrell, after a long illness, died July 17, 1952, at Stanton, Montcalm county, Michigan. Ora Adelia [Moore] Terrell died January 6, 1978, in Greenville, Montcalm county, Michigan. Both are buried in Winchester cemetery, Bryon Center, Michigan.

The Terrell blacksmith building later became a car repair garage owned by Peter Wieringa. And according to Gene Kort, one of our historians, the blacksmith building was torn down about 1948/9. Today the location is an overgrown lot.



BLACKSMITH SHOP CENTER OF PICTURE; SALOON [W/RAILINGS] ON LEFT SIDE & HOTEL ON RIGHT SIDE [ACROSS FROM SALOON]

Dr. Gervers, who attended the Terrell family during the scarlet fever illness, did not live in Jenison very long. I did find an advertisement in the Grandville News of May 1909, which listed both his hours and his location. I thought it was interesting so here it is:

turning Wednesday evening.

**J. H. R. GERVERS, M. D.,**  
JENISON, MICH.  
Corner Grand Haven and River Street.  
Office Hours: 10 to 11 a. m., 4 to 5  
and 7 to 8 p. m.  
Citizens Phone No. 2-3s and 11 rings.  
Jenison Exchange.

**NORTH GEORGETOWN.**

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From 1918 newspaper

**INFLUENZA!**

**ALL PERSONS**  
Excepting Physicians and Nurses, are Forbidden,  
Under Penalty of Law, of Entering or Leaving  
This House, Without Written Permission  
from the BOARD of HEALTH.

Issue 2, April, May, June 2020