

OAKLAND



COUNTY

In the Civil War

ADDISON TOWNSHIP

Underground Railroad Lore: A trap door, tunnel, and spoons have been found in a house located at 1407 Milmine Rd. (More research needed).

Lakeville Cemetery contains the graves of several Civil War veterans.

AUBURN HILLS

Underground Railroad Historical Marker: The Edward Johnson House, originally on Lapeer Rd. and then moved to Shimmons Rd. (Research ongoing).

The Noah Webster Cemetery, located on Squirrel Rd., is the resting place of several Civil War veterans.

CLARKSTON

After teaching in Mississippi before the war and acknowledging his clear anti-secessionist leanings, Major John Knox came home and enlisted in the Michigan 5th Infantry. At Fair Oaks, VA, Knox was gravely wounded when a bullet passed through his neck and throat, and he was left for dead on the battlefield. After the war, he opened the Knox School for Freedmen in Athens, GA, and received threats from the KKK in response to his efforts. Later, he served in Washington, D.C., as a Commissioner in Indian Affairs.

ORION

The Esli Redfield collection of letters printed in a 1930s edition of the Orion Review depicts life during the war on the front and at home.

OXFORD

Major Newcom Clark, an Oxford resident, became the Commander of Michigan's 102nd Colored Regiment formed in 1864. Previously named the 1st Michigan Colored Infantry, the 102nd Regiment

was comprised of freedmen and escaped slaves from all over the state. With Major Clark as their leader, the 102nd joined with the colored 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and fought alongside them in several skirmishes.

SOUTHFIELD

Members of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southfield and their minister, Reverend James S.T. Milligan, helped former enslaved African Americans escape to Canada as part of the Underground Railroad.

WATERFORD

In 1863, Reuben Chapman of Waterford was taken prisoner in the Battle of Chickamauga. Due to illness, he was discharged and returned home. When he died several weeks later, his family was torn apart. His wife and daughter moved to Flint and became seamstresses; while the two young boys, ages 12 and 13, became farm hands. George, the oldest boy, became a prominent citizen in Waterford. His handwritten diary covering the years 1877-1936 clearly depict life during that era.

Eliza Seaman Leggett, a well-known abolitionist from Waterford, was friends with Sojourner Truth and Laura Haviland. Eliza's home—"Willows"—once located on Walton Boulevard is a rumored stop on the Underground Railroad. In 2003, she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.

WHITE LAKE

Underground Railroad Lore: The John Garner House on White Lake Rd. There are strong indications that Robert Garner was an active stationmaster. He even adopted a 12 year-old colored girl into his family. (Research ongoing).

White Lake Cemetery on White Lake Rd. contains many significant Civil War graves.