

## Rice-Moore Collection, 1837-1876

### Notes

The Rice-Moore Collection consists of autograph manuscripts written by Reuben Rice of Elmore and scrapbooks of clippings made by his daughter, Marry Moore, and grand-daughter, Alice Biggs. The collection was the gift of Statira Biggs, Mr. Rice's great-grand-daughter.

Reuben Rice, one of the pioneer settlers of the Black Swamp area of northwestern Ohio, was born in Oswego County, New York, the seventh child and third son of Ezekiel and Judith (Willard) Rice. His family moved west to Ohio when he was a child, and after many adventures, which he relates in his autobiography, he finally settled in Clay Township, Sandusky County (now Ottawa County) as a young man.

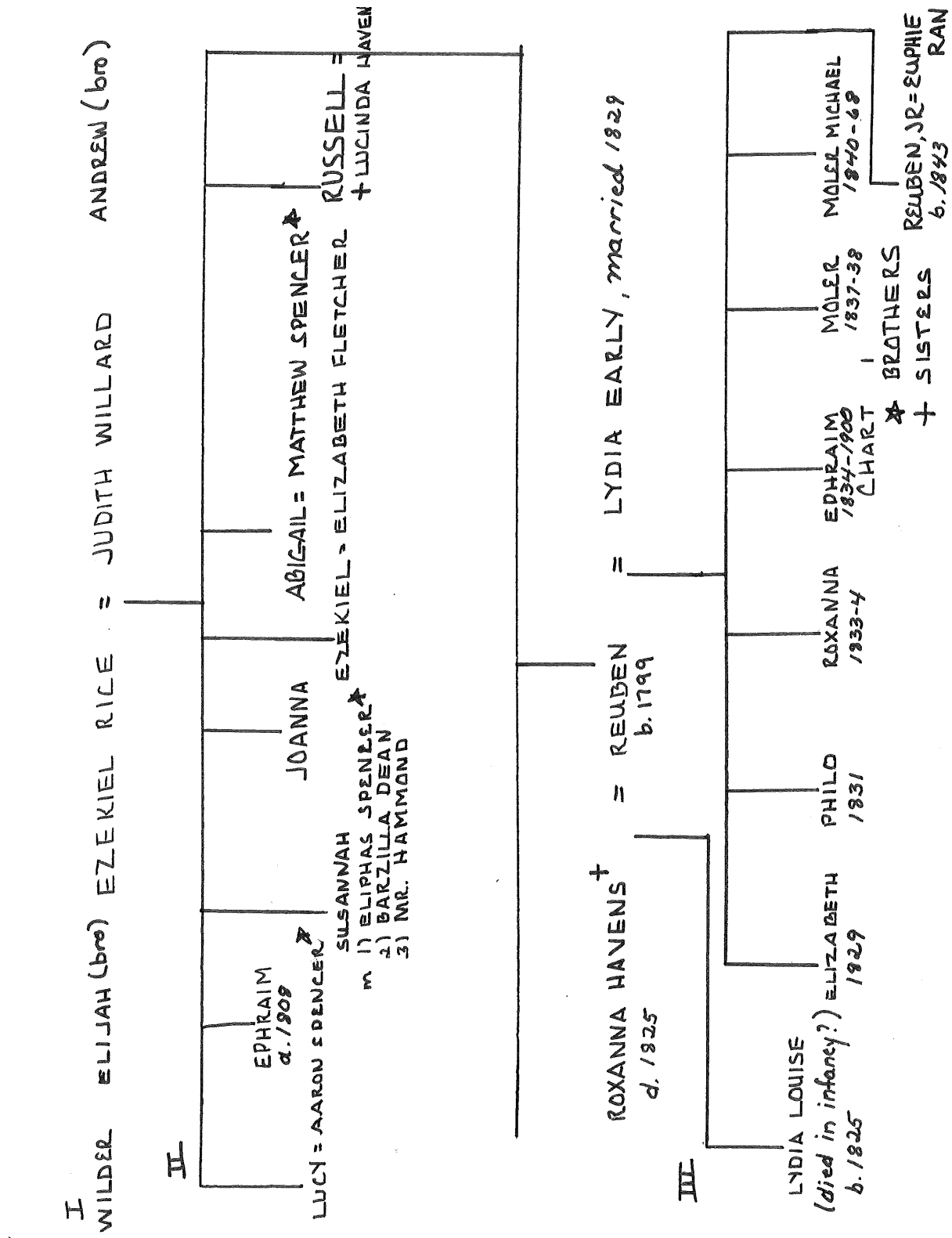
Rice was involved in both the religious and political life of the community. He was elected the first justice of the peace for Clay Township in 1837, and portions of his docket book can still be read. He took part in the rather lengthy, and heated, debate on whether or not organs should be used in church services; he believed it should not. He neither smoked nor drank and always cited copious Scriptural passages for every statement he made.

Rice was married twice, first in 1823 to Roxanna Havens, his younger brother's sister-in-law. Roxanna died of childbed fever the following year; her daughter, Lydia, probably died in infancy or childhood, as her father never mentioned her again. Rice's second wife, Lydia Early, whom he married in 1829, had ten children: Elizabeth, Early, Philo, Roxanna, Ephraim, Moler, Mary Levenia, Moler Michael, Horace Barzillia, and Reuben. Only early, Ephraim, Mary, Michael, Horace, and Reuben lived to adulthood. Ephraim and Michael never married; Early was widowed quite young, and apparently did not remarry, leaving his two sons Arthur and Bion to be raised by his relatives. Mary Levenia married William Moore and had three children: Walter, Marion, and Alice. Horace, married to Eliza Coalwell, also had three children: Rolla, Lillian and Gertrude. Reuben, Jr. married Euphie Ran, but Rice mentioned no children of theirs.

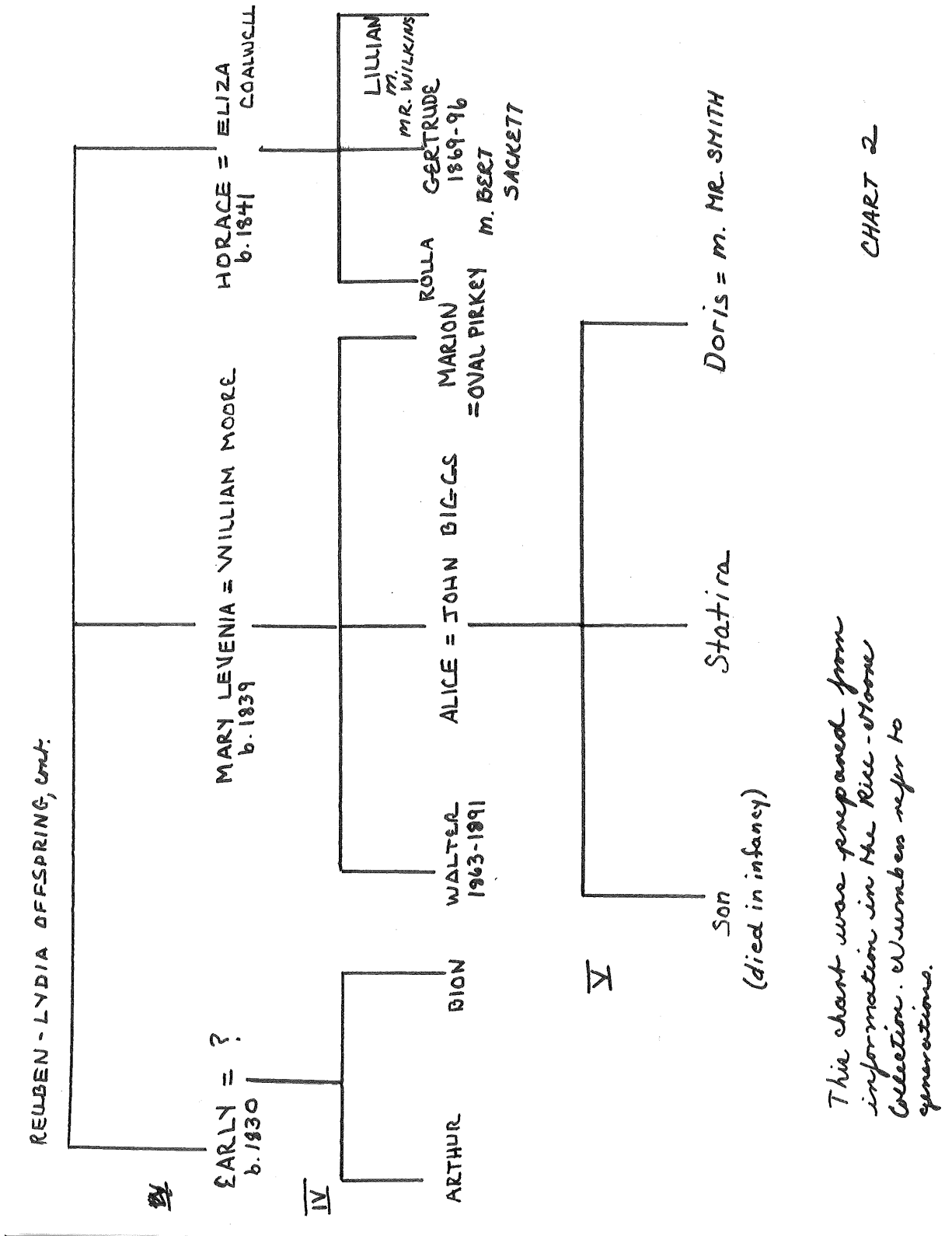
Rice and his wife lived with Mary and her husband William until their death. Mary, or her children, migrated west, eventually settling in Whatcom, Washington. Mary's daughter, Alice, was the first woman to receive a teacher's certificate in the state of Kansas. The other daughter, Marion, was a prominent local musician and teacher; she married Oval Pirkey, a California judge, in 1900.

Most of the papers in this collection were written by Reuben Rice; his daughter, Mary, and in all probability his grand-daughter, Alice, made the scrapbooks. The pioneer life which Rice depicts in his writings is one of hard work, loneliness, sickness, death, and a strong faith in God. This collection should prove useful to those interested in the westward movement and early Ohio settlement.

Rice-Moore Collection, 1837-1876  
Genealogical Chart



Rice-Moore Collection, 1837-1876  
Genealogical Chart



*This chart was prepared from information in the Rice-Moore Collection. Numbers refer to generations.*

## Rice-Moore Collection, 1837-1876 Inventory

- Folder 1     Docket Book, 1837  
                Reuben Rice was Justice of the Peace for Clay Township, Sandusky County. Many of the pages were pasted over with clippings as his daughter, Mary, used it as a scrapbook. However, some of the pages towards the end of the book contain court records.
- Folder 2     Willard Moore's Day Book, 1873  
                Most of the pages containing accounts have been removed, although some patrons' names still head a few pages. This book contains either Willard Moore' memoirs, or a story that he was writing; none of the names seem to be associated with the Rice-Moore families.
- Folder 3     Reuben Rice's Autobiography, 1875  
                Autograph original, containing much interesting information on early migration and settlement in the Black swamp region of northwestern Ohio. Because of the fragile and deteriorating condition of this manuscript, the original may not be used. The typed transcript in Folder 4 may be used.
- Folder 4     Autobiography, transcript
- Folder 5     "Story of Religious Life for Past Fifty Years, and the Disciple Church of Elmore"  
                Autograph original, containing a lengthy discussion of whether or not the Scriptures permit the use of organs in church. The author believed organs were not permissible. Because of the fragile and deteriorating condition of this manuscript, the original may not be used. The typed transcript in Folder 6 may be used.
- Folder 6     Religious Life transcript
- Folder 7     Miscellaneous Articles  
                1. Snow in the Eastern States  
                2. The Cunning and Sagacity of the Fox  
                3. Religious Experiences  
                Transcripts have been made of these articles; the originals are not to be used because of their fragile condition.
- Folder 8     Mary Rice Moore, Centennial Notes, 1876  
                Mary Rice Moore, born in 1839, was the daughter of Reuben Rice. The notebook is a sort of Diary she kept on her trip to the Centennial celebration in 1876 in Philadelphia. The handwriting is quite difficult to read, and as it is in pencil, is smeared and faded in several places.

## Rice-Moore Collection, 1837-1876 Inventory

- Folder 9      Rice-Moore Scrapbook, n.d.  
                  Scrapbook of newspaper clippings on Rice-Moore families, the Black Swamp, the Civil War and other topics. Probably kept by Mary Rice Moore after she and her husband, William Moore, moved to Whatcom, Washington.