



Clinton County Historical Society

Museum & Archives

Newsletter



Volume 3 Issue 6

July 2026

America 250 Celebration

Meet the Volunteers

Mark Walling

Mark Walling was born in St. Johns, Michigan, at Clinton Memorial Hospital and graduated from St. Johns High School. He later attended Grand Valley State University, earning a degree in Business Management.

Mark's family roots in Clinton County date back to 1856 through the Perrin and Palmer families. His grandfather, Edwin Walling, founded the Walling Gravel Pit, which was later operated by Mark's father, Robert Walling, and his uncle, Bert Walling. Mark's parents, Robert and Letha Walling, were also active in local historical preservation efforts, working with the Rumbaugh family on the restoration of the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

He married Erin Wood, and together they moved to Norton Shores, where they continue to reside today. Mark and Erin are proud parents of two children and grandparents to three grandchildren.

Professionally, Mark dedicated 40 years to GE Aviation before retiring in 2018. In retirement, he remains active in preserving local history by volunteering remotely with the Clinton County Historical Society. His volunteer work focuses on converting historical photographic negatives into positive images and digitally restoring and editing photographs to help preserve the visual history of the community for future generations.



Clarification

Our June issue should have said the Ovid Historical Society museum's official name is the Mary Myers Museum located in the George D. Sowers house.

Join us from 5-8pm on Thursday, July 16th as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary on the Museum campus at 106 Maple Ave., St. Johns.

A highlight will be the unveiling of our new 2nd floor railroad and interurban exhibit along with tours of the entire museum campus. You can also view our Rodney B Wilson High School exhibit before it closes at the end of this year. The Paine-Scott-Gillam house is now air-conditioned allowing you to view our exhibits in comfort.

During the event David Salvador will be providing music and GoodTimes Griddle, a food truck, will be available for you to purchase a variety of sandwiches and treats.

There will also be special activities for all ages including face painting and mystery artifacts for you to try to identify.

There is plenty of parking at the courthouse across the street, so come and celebrate with us.

If you can't make it on the 16th, the museum is open Saturday's from 10am to 1pm and the 1st and



Oral History

As a part of our America 250 Celebration on July 16th we will offer you the opportunity to share a special family story, artifact, or memorable experience.

Volunteers will be available to record up to a 15 minute memory. Please RSVP by July 10 to petersj@msu.edu or 989-501-0566 or scan this QR code.

We look forward to hearing your stories.





Clinton County Historical Society
Presents
America 250 Celebration

Thursday, July 16th from 5:00 – 8:00 PM - 106 Maple Ave. St Johns, MI

across from the Clinton County Courthouse

Museum, Carriage House and General Store open for tours

Unveiling of Railroad and Interurban Exhibit & Activities for the Whole Family



Family-Friendly
Food Truck



Acoustic Stylings
Of David Salvador



Face Painting
By Sharon Shutes

Do you have a story related to Clinton County History that you would like to share and record?

The Clinton County Historical Society will be recording such stories at the Museum campus on Thursday, July 16th between 5:00 and 8:00 PM. As part of the CCHS America 250 celebration.

You could describe a family member, your historic home, a personal adventure or a memorable achievement.

You will have a maximum of 15 minutes to tell your story, so you may want to plan your presentation and bring some notes. Please RSVP by July 10 at petersj@msu.edu or 989-501-0599 to reserve a spot or scan the QR code. We look forward to hearing your story.

