



Clinton County Historical Society

Museum & Archives

Newsletter



Volume 3 Issue 5

June 2026

Museum 2026 Opening

250th Celebration

Our first program of the year will be an America 250th Celebration on Thursday, July 16th from 5pm-8pm at the museum complex in St. Johns.

A highlight will be the unveiling of our new 2nd floor railroad-interurban exhibit along with tours of the entire complex.

The festive night will include entertainment, refreshments, and special activities for all ages. A detailed schedule will be published in the July Newsletter.

New Board Member

With the recent retirement of CCHS Treasurer Gayla Phillips from the Executive Board, the Board voted unanimously to select Lee Kleinjans to replace her at their May meeting. Lee has extensive financial experience having retired as the Clinton County RE-SA business manager.

The board also recently accepted the resignation of Debra Cox from the Board. While no longer on the Board, both Debra and Gayla remain as active members of the CCHS. We thank them for their service.

Archives Card File Project

The Archives is in the process of imaging the vital records card file which contains births, marriages, anniversaries, and deaths which were indexed from Clinton County newspapers. Thousands of cards are being scanned. When the project is finished they will be available to be searched online.

The filing cabinets are being removed and replaced with a cupboard from the museum along with some documents that had been stored at the museum.



The CCHS museum at 106 Maple St.. will be opening for the 2026 season on Saturday, June 13th from 9am-noon. In addition to every Saturday morning, the museum will also be open the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 2pm-5pm.

This spring the Paine-Gillam-Scott house had air conditioning added. The Swegles General Store also had a chimney removed and a new roof installed.

The 2nd floor of the museum with the new railroad-interurban exhibit will not open until July 16th as work on the second floor continues.



Other Societies News

The **Bath School Museum** marked the 99th anniversary of the Bath School disaster on May 18th. They are continuing to fundraise for their [new building project](#). Click on the link for more information.

The **Elsie Historical Society** archives and museum next to the Elsie Library is open Wednesdays from 2pm-5pm, except for the 3rd Wednesday of each month when they are open until 7pm.

The **Ovid Historical Society's** George D. Sower House museum at 131 E. Williams St. is open the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 2pm-4pm.

The **Westphalia Historical Society** at 120 W. Main St., has a new HVAC system, and other improvements from a successful America 250 grant.

Their 2026 *Farm Home of Yesteryear* exhibit will open on Sunday June 7th from 1pm-4pm. Along with the first Sunday of each month, the museum is open the third Wednesday of each month from 5pm-8pm.

The exhibit will include examples of kitchen utensils, cookbooks, food preservation and processing methods, and old farm home photos. Anyone interested in the farm life of yesteryear should check it out.



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

MARCH-APRIL 2026

Meeting: May 13, 2026

March & April were pretty busy. We had 20 visitors with a fair share of them on the same day because of a Schavey Family Reunion happening. Because of the Museum giving us a really nice old cupboard to put in the "Old Books Room," we are back to moving a few things around. Which means we need to get rid of the 3 cabinets that hold the 3 x 5" vital records cards. They were the beginning of how we kept records of birth, marriage, & deaths. So we are in the process of making sure they are in alphabetical order and then we're scanning them to be able to view them online.

CHURCHES:

- 1987 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler
- 1998 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler
- 2001 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler
- 2007 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler
- 2011 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler
- 2018 St. Peter Lutheran Church Directory, Fowler

FAMILY FILE:

- KING/PUTT (including...)
- Birth Record of Ambra King
- Loan Note 1915
- Lansing Business Univ Scholarship for Ambra King 1914
- Paper shows Ambra King as a Clerk with the Clinton Probate Court 1915
- Picture on a pin of two little girls.
- Birth Record of Fenimore E. Putt
- SJ School Promotion Card for Fenimore Putt
- Ambra King report card
- Bank Note 1915

GENEALOGIES:

- Early Settler Application and genealogy of John Vance

HISTORIES:

- Pouring Iron In St. Johns; Ron Matson 2012; spiral bound
- The Old Machine Shop; 2012; spiral bound
- St. Johns Portable Building Co.; Ron Matson; 3 ring binder
- Triangle Motor Truck Company; 3 ring binder
- Cargo Flight, An Adventure Into Flying History; Foster A. Lane; 1986; including Phillip Parmelee

PHOTOS:

- St. Johns Football player Albert Werbish ca 1965
- SJ Football player Larry Nobis ca 1965
- SJ Football player Russell Sullivan ca 1965
- SJ Football player Bob Every ca 1965
- SJ Football player Dean Temple ca 1965
- SJ Football player Stan Pewaski ca 1965
- SJ Football player Jerry Wright ca 1965
- SJ Football player James Brainard ca 1965
- Helen Judd
- Rev. A. Carson
- Clark & Linnie Putt (2 of same)
- Clark & Fenimore Putt
- Clark Putt
- Linnie (Eaegle) Putt
- Kathryn (Putt) Leaver
- Tintype of Linnie (Eaegle) Putt
- Grandpa D. L. Eaegle farm house, Greenbush Twp just after Civil War, Family photo
- Reva, Cole, Grandma Putt, Linnie Putt, Zelma Putt
- Grandpa Eaegle's farm (2)
- Baby Clark Putt died at 3 months
- Charles Luther Putt
- Great Grandpa Putt
- Clark Putt's grandmother's brother Tripp
- Linnie (Eaegle) Putt
- Clark Putt (3)
- Nettie Davies Vaughn (Mrs. Coleman)
- Kelley E. Juenker 1920
- Norman J. Juenker
- Lee Ormston & David Norris
- Dana Hazle & Carolyn Schaefer
- Mrs. Dale Kuenzli & Leslie Kuenzli
- Richard Matice, Glen Feldpausch, Blaine Stevens, Bernard Feldpausch
- Louise Smith, Susan Aylsworth, Jackie Correa, Janice Woodams
- Eric Chant & Gary French
- Dave Vallin
- Rev. Roger Harrison
- Francis Schafer
- Robert Lee Briggs, Jr.
- Donald Strobe
- East Essex 8th grade graduation 1969
- Eureka 8th grade graduation ca 1969
- RBW Class of 1931 50 Year Reunion, 1981; Front Row: Laurel Smead Stevens, Lucille Yanz Post, Marie Marek Panik, Fannie Conn Weir, Murtle Green Findlay, Lucille Strong Ernst, Pansy Hearl Eldridge, Irene Knight Crowell, Beatrice Motz

- Jorae; Row 2: Eloda Heibeck Tangney, Ethel Fricke March, Eleanor Eaton Stevens, Mildred Dunay Brown, Dorothy Beck Cressman; Row 3: Gerry Brainerd, Gerry Dykhuisen, Marguerite Dickens, Therah Fitzpatrick, Maxine Solvers Schaub, Mildred Myers Riggle, Marjorie Peck Blizzard, Arlita Armstrong VanVleet; Row 4: Rozella Desprez Hyde, Mary Gross, Onalee Maneval; Row 5: Luella Merrill, Celia Maxwell, Alice O'Neil Goodsman, Alberta Berlin Huhn, Lula Houseman Heathman, Letha Bullard Waltz, Helen Benjamin; Row 6: Russell Steffens, Nelson Budie, Don Brainerd, Fred Bunday, Glenn Davis, Fred Simunek, Loree Findlay, Ernest ?, Stanley Jumper, Ronald Foil
- Ron Bond, Lynn Neller, Duane Downing & Gary Price ca 1964 football
 - St. Johns JV Football team 1963-64
 - St. Johns Varsity Football Team 1963-64; Lee Hill, Edward Celletta, John Sirrine, Dave DeGeer, John Sickles, James Brainard, Charles Caudy, Gene Schnieder, Dave Hamer, Leslie Warner, Larry Novis, Gary Becker, Trent Trylor, Bill Sirrine, Stan Pewoski, John Vitek, Kenneth Love, Russell Sullivan, George Taylor, Bill Witt, Albert Werbish, Scott Munger, Dean Temple, Jerry Kubica, Bob Every, Kenneth Bartholomew, Dave Hill, Jerr Wright, Rick Knight, James Pope, Bob Krumm
 - Jon Tatroe, Soap Box Derby Winner
 - St. Johns Jr High Grade 7, March 1956
 - St. Johns 5th grade class, Central School, 1952,53; Back Row:Alan Smith, James Parson, Fred Pifer, Douglas Sleight, Brian Hamilton, Charles Savita, Eddie Onstott, Charles Ernst, Jean Robinson, Mrs. Patterson (Teacher), Jane Berry; Middle Row: Bill Acton, Warron Amy, Terry Scranton, Michael Sutfin, Barbara Parks, Judy Williams, Mary Alice Northouse, Mildred Stockwell, Helen Weeks, Sharon Purvis, Gaylord Doty; First Row:Michael Hettinger, Tommy Bishop, Pam Strouse, Douglas Jacobs, Gary Powers, Kitty Bennett, Linda Bondy, James, Gladstone, Jon Rice

SCHOOLS:

- Mary Bond, RBW 1925-1929; School Fellow Days, A Memory Book
- 2007 St. Johns High School Alumni Directory 1955 – 2007
- 1886 Teacher's Third Grade Certificate for M. L. Phares

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Peters, Director
CCHS Archives

VIETNAM VETERAN'S PHOTOS:

Gaylord Ralph Myers
Herbert B. Burns
William D. Trommater
Bruce Schafer
Louie Thelen
Daniel P. Tower
Floyd Slocum
Edward W. Allen
?? Keith
James A. Dorman Jr.
Earl Stevens

Robin Baker
Larry Mosher
Dean R. Ormsby
D. Cook
Harm E. Lange
Terry D. Estes
Kus
Duane Dickenson
Douglas Harvey
David Harper
Donald Calder
David W. Stipcak
Glen Kendall
Dennis R. Smith
Gerald M. Rossow
William D. Casper
Michael E. Prikasky
David L. Fenner
Dale M. Bancroft
Cary Hambleton
Gary C. Steinhardt
William Setterington
Ginger Leigh Simpson
Edward Setterington
Beau Bradley
Joe Heckman
Michael S. Hettler
Ronald Hawk
Gab G. Besinger
Deryl Brunner
Dennis E. Fedewa

Kenneth M. Somers
David Lee Beachler
Dan Ketchum
Dennis Haid
Bert F. Howard
Gordon C. Shipley
Eric G. Cox
Lawrence Pierce
Earl D. Stevens
Gale Price
Bruce D. Bishop
David M. Arnold
Michael K. Lonier
Donald G. Smith
Floyd Slocum
Neil Schulz Sr.
Benny David Sloat
D. Burton Clise
Wm. Nemetz
Kenneth H. Salisbury
Joe Bocek
Dave Hambleton
Gary L. Hine
Donald Fox
Vern Armbrustmacher
Elizabeth DeGeer
David Paseka
Richard E. Price
Gerald L. Avery
Robert W. Newman
William R. Hambleton
Harry L. Olson
Richard Chalmers
Jerome N. Klein
Melvin L. Babbitt
Lee R. Ormsby
Lucky Krepps
Thomas Couling
Ramon Barnhart
William D. Stoy
William F. Houska
Donald M. Fox
John W. Keehn
Larry Porter
Jerry Lee Sherwood
John E. Wilson

Lewis M. Wilson
Richard L. Bishop
Richard Keehn
Jack Purvis
Fredric Eldridge
Jan Allen Dollahan
John H. Burgess
Patrick Harper
Schmidt
Randy L. Hart
Robert Knight
Jerry D. Samson
Martin Kingman
Dale L. Kelley
Robert L. Sisco
Clare J. Kramer
Kenneth M. Kramer
Gerald V. Spitzley
Randy L. Hart
Dennis M. Darling
Donald E. Chamberlain
Lawrence Fladung
William E. Ballard
Bernard J. Newhouse
Ronald L. Howe
Anderson
M. W. Pierce
Bishop
Robert L. Huhn
Bonita Marie Thelen
Annette L. Chamberlain
Elaine Hazle
Roger Wilkins

Carter
James R. Olin
Twitchell
John R. Slamka