



Clinton County Historical Society

Museum & Archives

CCHS Newsletter



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Summer Local History Options

Meet the Volunteers

Rowlan Smith

Rowlan Rae Smith was born May 12, 1935, on the dining room table in a farm house on West Townsend Road in Clinton Co., the third of four boys. He attended the Plowman School and R. B. Wilson High School.

Rowlan was employed at various businesses in St. Johns and Lansing. He worked at Herbruck's Cheese Counter north of St. Johns followed by State Farm Insurance in St. Johns. While there he began taking classes at Lansing Business College. He was asked to leave as he kept falling asleep during class as in addition to taking classes he was working full-time and dating his future wife, LaRene.

Next he began working for Grand Trunk Railroad and later became a dispatcher for U. S. Truck (bought out by Central Transport) in Lansing.

After retiring in 1997 Rowlan became interested in genealogy which led to being asked to volunteer at the Archives. You can still find him there every Monday. He also served as CCHS treasurer for many years.

Rowlan and LaRene enjoyed traveling and visited all 50 states and many foreign countries prior to her passing last year.



Newspaper Digitization

While delayed due to staffing issues, CMU has completed digitizing the Ovid and Elsie newspaper microfilm project. Additionally, we have digitized Fowler and Maple Rapids newspaper microfilm. These will be available online for free to be viewed and keyword searched this summer.

While not as busy as our 50th anniversary celebration last year, there are still lots of great options to experience.

- ♦ The Clinton County Historical Museum is open on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 2-5 and Saturdays from 9-1 beginning June 14th with a special exhibit featuring Rodney B. Wilson High School from 1925-1969.
- ♦ [Archives](#) is open Mondays and Tuesdays for research.
- ♦ Wayne Summers will repeat his DeWitt history walk from last year on June 16th at 10am and 7pm. You can [sign up here](#).
- ♦ The CCHS will once again participate in the Mint Festival from August 8-10.
- ♦ Take a [historical road trip](#).

Fall Membership Meeting

We are pleased to announce our fall membership meeting will be on Thursday, September 18th, at the Bingham Township Hall with guest speaker Kris Rzepczynski of the Archives of Michigan presenting *Wills, Thrills and Chills* with a special emphasis on Clinton County probate records. Stay tuned for more details.



Did You Know...

Location, Location, Location!



Ever hear of a place in Clinton County called Co-Cocooie's or Corey Marsh? Click on the webpage button to be amazed at all of the Clinton County places.