



Clinton County Historical Society

Museum & Archives



Volume 2 Issue 8

October 2025

Mt. Rest Cemetery Walk Rescheduled

Meet the Volunteers

Brian Grennell

Brian Grennell was born in St. Johns in 1964 and grew up in the St. Johns area. His lineage through both of his parents traces back several generations in Clinton County. He has served on the Advisory committee for the CCHS Museum/Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum in St. Johns Michigan since 2007.



Brian became interested in local history and genealogy at a young age, which guided his college and career paths. He attended Michigan State University, earning both a B.A. and M.A. with specialization in historic preservation. He worked for 24 years for the State Historic Preservation Office and currently works as a Historian for the Michigan Department of Transportation, where he conducts reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to consider the impacts of federally funded projects on historic and archaeological resources. Brian and his wife Jodi have been married for 25 years and reside in Lansing.

The Mt. Rest Cemetery walk originally scheduled for September 21st was postponed to this Sunday, September 28th due to the threat of rain.

The walk will be conducted by Alice and Peter Murphy starting at 2 pm with the Mausoleum opening at 1:30 pm. This is a free event, however, donations will be accepted.

Fall Membership Meeting

On September 18th Kris Rzepczynski, senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan, presented Wills, Thrills, and Chills. In his presentation he discussed the organization and importance of probate records in genealogical research.

He said Clinton County probate records through 1974 are at the Archives of Michigan and are available to view upon request.



Westphalia Summer Exhibit

The Westphalia Historical Society is presenting their summer exhibit: "Our Farming Heritage: Crops and Tools" on the following dates at 120 W. Main St.:

Sunday, October 5 from 1-4pm

Wednesday, October 15 from 5-8 pm

There will be examples of milking parlor equipment, farming photos, old farming journals and magazines, tractor parts, and more. An 80 page photo album of last year's exhibit will be available for those who may have missed it.



Upcoming Events

September 28 — Mt. Rest Cemetery Walk
October 5 & 15 — Westphalia Farm Exhibit
December 10 — CCHS Annual Meeting

Museum Update



A number of improvements have been underway at the museum.

Volunteers Chuck Peters and Larry Hayner removed the old concrete steps and railing at the General Store entrance which had become unsafe and replaced them with a new wooden deck and beautiful side rails.

With the assistance of volunteer Jim Parr, the museum has had several technology improvements including a faster Internet and the soon to be launched online version of the museum Past Perfect cataloging software.

The museum misses the contributions of two long-time volunteers in the passing of Ron Matson and the resignation of Judy Hubler. They were both important in the organization, cataloging, and assessment of museum documents and artifacts. We are grateful that Jim Parr has stepped in to help fill the void from their loss.

The museum is enjoying a much more robust season of visitors this year. The Rodney B. Wilson High School exhibit has brought in lots of folks to check out all the memorabilia we have displayed from 1925-1969. Additionally, opening the museum on Saturday mornings instead of Sunday afternoons has increased our visitor at the door significantly. The Saturday mornings will end on October 25th which will coincide with our Christmas Holiday preparations.

Historical Societies Meet

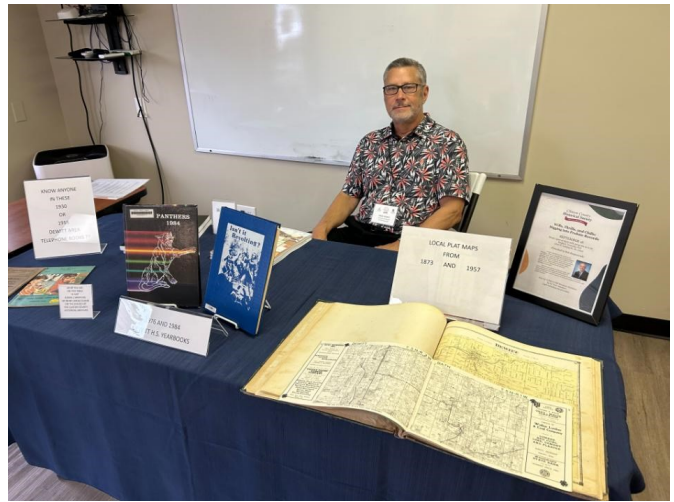
On September 20th representatives of the Bath, CCHS, Elsie, Ovid, and Westphalia historical societies met at the Elsie Historical Society in Elsie.

Each society shared their successes and challenges during the previous year while pledging to continue working together.



CCHS at DeWitt History Day

CCHS President, Mike Morey, manned a table at the September 13 Preserve Our History Day at the DeWitt District Library. He showed a number of items of local interest from the CCHS archives.



Reed Washing Machines?

Myrna VanEpps is looking for information about the Reed & Company washing machine which was manufactured in Eagle ca 1880-1900. If you have any information please contact: myvepps@gmail.com

Clinton Co Historical Societies

Bath School Museum — 13675 Webster Rd., Bath.
Tours by appointment only during the school year.

Elsie Historical Society — 145 W. Main St., Elsie.
Open Wednesdays from 2-5.

Ovid Historical Society — 131 E. Williams
(museum) and Ovid District Library (archives
Tuesdays 1-3).

Westphalia Historical Society — 120 W. Main St.,
Westphalia. See Farm Exhibit article on page 1.

CCHS Annual Meeting

The CCHS Annual meeting and lunch will be held on December 10th at the DeWitt (Valley Farms) Community Center with a special RBW High School panel discussion.

Save the date. Additional details will be announced in the November newsletter.



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

AUGUST 2025

We had 12 visitors over the month of August. Myrna and I participated in an event located at Niles Cemetery in Eagle Township. Scott Piggott was the speaker and an estimated 50-60 attendees came. It was a very pleasant afternoon and lots of stories being told to us after they looked at our display. Mike also participated in an event at the DeWitt Library about sharing and digitizing information. He got to show our webpage to visitors and share more about the Archives.

ABSTRACTS:

- 400 E. Sturgis St. Abstract

BUSINESSES:

- State Tax Commission assessment of St. Johns Businesses 1960's
- Extra Large, Ovid, Retan House Sign-In Register, 11 x 18"

CHURCHES:

- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; the 1964 - 1965 church membership directory. [CH 282T]
- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; the 1965 - 1966 membership directory. [CH 282U]
- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; the 1966 - 1967 church membership directory. [CH 282V]
- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; the 1967 - 1968 church membership directory. [CH 282W]
- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; the 1969 church membership directory. [CH 282X]
- From the First Congregational Church in St. Johns; a black 3-ring binder containing a chronological history of all pastors, from 1860 to 1977. [CH 282Y]

EVENT RELATED:

- 50 Year Centennial Farm Book 2024

GENEALOGIES:

- Schuyler Marshall genealogy

PHOTOS:

- Bath main street, A.J. Phelps postmaster; ca 1925
- Log cabin on the St. Johns Fairgrounds; ca 1925
- Bertha Luecht, 1930 RBW Graduate

- W. H. Brunson, Edith Dunn, John Wheat, Warner Vredenburg, Walter Wykoff; St. Johns Postmaster; ca 1899

SCRAPBOOKS:

- Misc. Congregational Church notices [SB 109]

Respectfully submitted:
Julie Peters, Director
CCHS Archives


*We see the
need for
volunteers!*

