

# Clinton Independent

V  
Vol. I NO. 3

Clinton County Michigan  
St. Johns, Michigan

November

## Genealogy Committee Meets November 7

The Genealogy Committee will meet in the History Room of Bement Library in St. Johns on Nov. 7 at 7:30. The meeting will be highlighted by a visit by Ernie Carter County Clerk. This is an opportunity to discuss problems with records--where to go and how to use the information at the Court House. It is also a chance to ask questions about records which Ernie is very able to answer.

## Joyce Dyer reports:

At the meeting at Gunnisonville School Joyce reported on her recent attendance at the meeting of the Mich. Historical Society in Holland. She attended this meeting as a delegate from Clinton County. Her glowing report confirms that her attendance was rewarding and informative. Joyce has much to share with all of us.

Joyce Dyer and Goldie Moore, who reported on their attendance at the Genealogy Conf. at Eastern Mich. Univ. at the last meeting in Sept, were sent as delegates to these conferences by the Clinton County Historical Comm. The Comm. had decided that they would serve with no per-diem. They are using that money in their budget to send people to conferences. Involvement by all history groups in the county can be expanded. This has been a wonderful opportunity for those who have been able to go.

## CALENDAR

Nov. 7 Genealogy Comm. at Bement Library History Rm., 7:30  
Nov. 8 Museum Comm. 7:30 at Museum

## Society meets November 17

The Clinton County Historical Society will have two important events at the November meeting. The Clinton County Historical Commission will present a tribute to Clyde Anderson at our meeting. This meeting was chosen because Clyde had such an active part both in the establishment of the Society and in the establishment of our Museum. The Commission will honor Clyde for his activities in preserving the Indian culture of the Mid-west and for his extensive collection of anthropological information from this area. Clyde is internationally known for these collections and many of them are on loan to Museums and schools. We will all want to be here to honor Clyde. His contributions were so great to all, the Society is indeed honored to have him as a member.

We will have an interesting program by Geneva Wiskmann, "Iconology for the Collectors". If that title intrigues you--look at what it means--Icons from religious art to "book" art, litographs, historical and beautiful. This lovely slide presentation will be one of the highlights of the year.

The Nov. meeting will be at the Municipal Bldg. in St. Johns, 8:00 on Thursday the 17. Be sure to attend to pay tribute to Clyde Anderson and learn about icons. Janet Snyder is chairman of refreshments.

Nov 17 Historical Society, 8:00 at Municipal Bldg. Tribute to Clyde Anderson and program on Iconology  
Nov 28 Bd. Mtng. 105 S. Swegles, Betty Moore's home, all welcome  
Nov 29 Community Taping Committee 7:30 at Museum. Discussion of work progress

## ESSAY CONTEST

The following essay was written by Nancy Thelen who was a sixth grade student at St. Joseph School in St. Johns when she wrote it. Nancy's essay won first place in the Elementary School group.

### MY ANCESTORS

My great, great, great grandfather's name was Mathias Simon. He came from Westphalia, Germany, by sailboat, and settled in Westphalia, Michigan, in 1836. They sailed from Bremen, August 26, and arrived in New York on October 3. They were heading for Detroit on the Erie Canal and arrived there October 25. From Detroit, they progressed to Lyons, and then to what is now Westphalia, as it was named by the first pioneers, in honor of the town they left in Germany. Here, Mathias bought his land from the government for about a dollar an acre, and settled eighty acres in section 2, east of Westphalia.

Life was hard for all the pioneers in the settlement at this time. All the land had to be cleared by hand, without the help of horses or oxen. Clothing had to be made from flax or wool. The houses were small log cabins, with blankets for doors and windows.

Mathias Simon had to take advantage of every opportunity to earn money, so he could provide food for his family. Ashes, charcoal, black salts, coon furs, and deerskins were often packed on the back to sell in Lyons, Jackson and Detroit. This extra income was needed badly because of the high prices.

For instance, flour sold for eighteen dollars a barrel, potatoes ten dollars a bushel, and pork twenty-five cents a pound.

Later, in 1878, Mathias Simon sold his farm for one thousand, two hundred dollars and bought another, north of Westphalia. Still later he bought another farm northwest of Westphalia, in section six. This was the last record of Mathias Simon until his death in 1895.

### MUSEUM WORKERS

The following is a list of the museum workers for the next few weeks. If your name is there, please note it on your calendar so you don't have a conflict. Keys may be picked up at Tom Hellen's home.

December 4	Mona Maleron
11	Herm and Estella Gellen
18	Robert and Velian Sharp

#### Closed Christmas and New Years

January 8	Mr & Mrs Gar Laurence
15	Dave and Peg Lehnen
22	Connie Watts & Mr. & Mrs. Runbaugh
29	Mr. & Mrs Burl Dieter
February 5	Cristine Brown & Mrs. Alan Cobb
12	Ken Coin
19	Sharon Worrall
26	Adelbert Whittlock & Haralyse Brooks