

# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER 1986

## For sesquicentennial **Westphalia**

In November, 1836, the Rev. Anton Kopp, a Roman Catholic priest, with five other immigrants from Westphalia, Germany, purchased land in what is now Westphalia, Michigan.

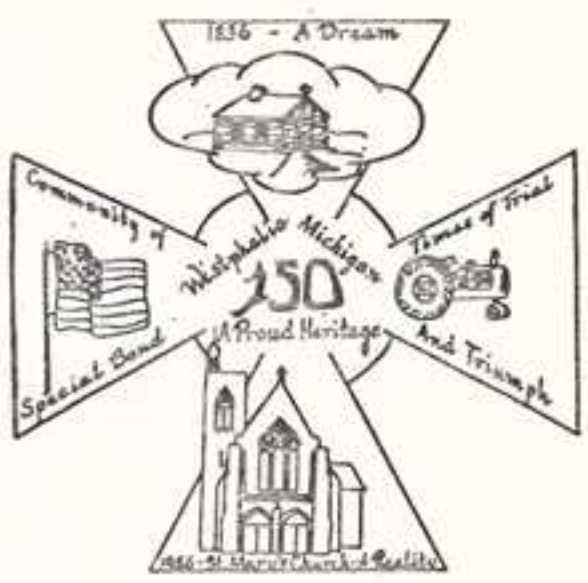
A church was built and by 1867 a bigger one was under construction. The original log church was replaced with one of brick made in the towns' brickyard. Its' trim was black walnut from the area forests. Fire destroyed that church in 1959. The building that stands today was dedicated in 1962.

Townfolk will celebrate the 150th birthday all year with special July 4 activities; a "sentimental journey" by 43 residents to Germany later in the year; and a visit here by the Idar-Oberstein Orchestra of Germany.

## **'A' for Wacousta**

The Wacousta Elementary School was recently named one of 20 most outstanding schools in Michigan. It is also being considered for national recognition.. It was cited for its unusual physical layout; its library; and its' atmosphere as a "place where kids can learn and enjoy at the same time."

## In The News



## **Eagle Scout's research helps people trace roots**

Lansing State Journal

OVID — People tracing their roots to this area will find their job easier because of a project that earned Greg Griffin, 18, an Eagle rank in the Boy Scouts.

Griffin, an Ovid-Elsie High School senior, documented burials in the old Maple Grove Cemetery at the eastern edge of Ovid. He said some of the 4,000 burial plots date to 1860.



Griffin

He and a crew of helpers worked over 400 hours during two summers. Some of his teachers became involved in putting the records on computer.

"By the time we finished, the whole Ovid Boy Scout Troop 585 was involved in helping me," Griffin said. "With a dozen or more people standing around in a cemetery, we got a lot of weird looks (from passersby)."

He gave copies of his work to the Clinton County Historical Society's genealogical division in the DeWitt Charter Township Hall.

The job was fulfilling, said Griffin, but "I'm glad it's over." He is now an assistant troop leader.

# GENEALOGY

## Meet the people

### Who Came To Clinton County . . .



#### Village of Shepardsville

The village of Shepardsville on D.G.H. & M.R.R. between St. Johns and Ovid, was laid out in 1856, by William Shepard, who started a store at that point. The village made feeble headway at first but pushed along more vigorously about 1867. In that year Mr. Shepard added several new industries, among them a grist mill which had been running but two days when the boiler exploded killing Dorn, the mill wright, and injuring six men. Several other disasters followed which retarded the growth of the town. A hotel was built by H. Longcor in 1864 and a postoffice established in 1867.

Shepardsville now has several stores, two churches, a school, a creamery and several pretty residences. It is surrounded by well-to-do farmers and is a good market for their crops.

#### Shepardsville Blacksmith

J. F. Paschall coming from Columbus, Ohio, in 1898, J.F. Paschall began work in St. Johns for Mr. Dunn in the blacksmithing business. After about one year he changed his location and some time later operated a shop in Pompeii for about one and one half years. Mr. Paschall then came back to St. Johns and began work in A.T. Smith's shop where he remained until last March. He has demonstrated to those for whom he did work that he was efficient and that his work could be depended upon.

In March he discontinued his work for Mr. Smith and opened a shop for himself in Shepardsville where he has since been clanging the anvil. He is a thoroughly competent man and has an excellent trade. (Abstracted from the collection at Clinton Co. Archives.) j. Snyder

Great blizzard of 1868 started on March 11.

March 29. 1848 Niagara Falls stopped flowing 30 hours due to ice block.

## NEWS and NOTES

### MUSEUM MUSINGS

THANKS: To Herman and Estelle Geller who donated a collection of early 1900 carpet sweepers and vacuum cleaners. A framed wreath of hair was received from Guerdon and Paula Schumacher; and a swing cradle from Carrie St. Clair Cook. The cradle originally belonged to the Dills, an early pioneer Clinton County family.

### For sesquicentennial

The Clinton County Historical Commission has been named the official Michigan Sesquicentennial Agency for the year-long celebration of our state's admission to the Union. It will coordinate activities, provide technical assistance, advise and ensure that information and events for the statewide event are brought to Clinton communities.

Initial meeting of the Advisory Council, to ensure that everyone and all groups which are interested has an opportunity to participate, will be March 11, 7 p.m., in the courthouse, St. Johns. Bring ideas or information on projects planned for 1986-87.

### CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CCHS membership is now 38 family and 62 single memberships. Pres. Charles Coletta reminds us that we are all members of the membership committee and each of us is requested to sign up one new member. LET'S DO IT THIS MONTH!

### CALENDAR (continued from last page)

Catholic Schools Week, March 10. Students at St. Mary's School will present a pageant portraying the Westphalia story in song, dance and pantomime that week.

### —Genealogically Speaking—

THANKS TO: JoAnn Seabonek for 13 Civil War booklets, "Indians in Michigan," and 4 short stories of Michigan with pictures. To the family of the late Jerry Rappaport for magazine file boxes; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Chamberlin for "Atlas and Plat Maps" of various Mich. counties, several issues of "Gen. Helper" and "Yankee" magazines. Mr. Dunnebacke for the "Bunnebacke Family Tree."

The book of Bible Records was indexed and typed by Lois & Earl Fohl and is ready for use.

### ... Querries ...

Inf. wanted on Butler family that lived in Clinton 1870-80. Frederick Butler, b. 1844 Portage City, Ohio; Willis Butler, b. 1847; Lyman Butler, b. 1834 in Portage City. Lyman married Eliz. Lockwood about 1867-68. Above are brothers. Their parents are Rufus and Mary Russell Butler. Writer of query has the direct line back to Edmund Butler, 1599, in England. They lived in New Haven, Ct. before going to Ohio about 1813. Contact Carl Bucher, 135 W. Willow, S. Bend, Ind. 46637. He will share information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- March 20 Clyde Chamberlain, slide show of tombstones. 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Federal Savings, St. Johns.
- April 17 Barbara Curtindale, slides of Mt. St. Helen. 7:30 p.m. Capitol Fed. Savings, St. Johns
- May 15 Carolyn Lewis, slides of 1857 Centennial farms, "then and now." 7:30 p.m. Cap. Fed., St. Johns.
- June 19 Dr. Lattimer - to be announced later

### GENEALOGY DIVISION OF CCHS

- March 3 Lucille Couzyne, Owosso, speaks on "How To Get Results from Letters" about genealogy questions. 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Federal Savings, St. Johns.

(continued next column)

Calendar of Events continued....

PAINE-GILLAM-SCOTT MUSEUM: Closed for winter. Reopens Apr. 2 with exhibits on Michigan's Sesquicentennial (1997) and correlating events in Clinton County. Coming up, "Calendar Hall" with more on that later.

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION: March 11, 7 p.m. 2nd floor, Courthouse, St. Johns. (See separate story page 3)

### BATH SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

- March 29 Easter Egg Hunt at James Couzens Park
- April 18-20 (Tentative dates) for a "Charity, Sweet Charity" melodrama.

### WESTPHALIA SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS:

- March 2 St. Marys Church Moter-Daughter Banquet with Sesquicentennial flare

(Continued on page 3)



## Clinton County Historical Society

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