



# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER / 1986

## NEWS OVERVIEW



The former doctor's office, after which Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum is named, was recently moved from its' foundation adjacent to the museum to a site behind the museum. The First Congregational Church will expand on the site, and the doctors' office will be used to house museum overflow. The building dates to the early 1880's when it was the home of Dr. S. E. Gillam. The Clinton County Historical Society, with aid from the county board of commissioners, moved it and now both the house that is PGS and the little office will play a significant role in providing a showcase for historical artifacts.

Photo courtesy: St. Johns Reminder

Fifth graders at Most Holy Trinity School in Fowler recently selected prominent figures from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and made costumes and gave reports.

Above are: Eric Weber as Washington; Sherrie Armbrustmacher as Lincoln; & Kelly Armbrustmacher as Betsy Ross.

Photo courtesy:  
Clinton County News

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# GENEALOGY

## Genealogically Speaking

Submitted by Arlene Lounds

The Genealogists have decided to publish a quarterly bulletin of Clinton County history. If you have research materials or your family history in story form and would like to have it considered for the publication, please contact Arlynn Gantz, Arlene Lounds, Lois Fohl or our Green Thumb librarian, Wilma Sowle. Plans are not firm as to the content or style of this publication so if you have any ideas to present about it you may also contact one of the above persons.

The Genealogists would like to xerox your old records at the Archives during the month of April. They need never leave your possession. Just bring them to the Archives during the designated hours (to be announced later) and wait while we copy them. Family group sheets, ancestor charts, stories, anecdotes, family Bible, marriage, death, and birth certificates are all welcome. This would also give you a chance to see what is available as research material at the Archives. Remember that the hours we are open are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and we are located in the DeWitt Township office building, one block east and one block south of the US-27/State Road intersection, just north of Lansing.

The Michigan Surname Index is sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council. It is a collection of names of individuals and vital statistics about that person, such as date and place of birth, marriage, and death, parents names and spouses name. Pre-printed cards are available from participating genealogy societies. In Clinton County, please contact me, Arlene Lounds, for cards and instructions on completing them.

Volume I has already been printed and is available for your use at the State Library on East Michigan Avenue in Lansing, about a block west of Pennsylvania Avenue. There is also a copy at the Clinton County Archives in the DeWitt Township office building.

The value and importance of this work is the help it will be to all researchers of family history. For instance, I will submit cards with all the required information on each of my parents and grandparents, as far back as I can go.

## Genealogically Speaking

Submitted by Arlene Lounds

David Johnson of the State Archives spoke to the Genealogists recently at the County Archives regarding research materials available at the State Archives. Their military records are quite complete and open to the public. For instance, the Descriptive Rolls of Michigan Units, 1838-1919 are there and you need only the full name of the person and approximate dates of service. Certain information from the Rosters of Veteran's Facility records may be available if your veteran or his widow was ever a resident there. (Veterans, 1885-1924, widows, 1894-1956). The muster rolls of GAR Posts is fully indexed, but you will need the veterans full name and Post number or community where he resided. The bonus records for WW I and II and Korea are also there. The civil war graves registrations from 63 Michigan counties are at the State Archives. For the military service records for officers who served before June 30, 1916, enlisted men before 1896, and Confederate armed forces from 1861-1865, pension application files based on US service before WW I and Bounty land warrant application files based on US service (not state) before 1856, you should write to: Military Service Records (NNCC), National Archives (GSA), Washington, DC 20408.

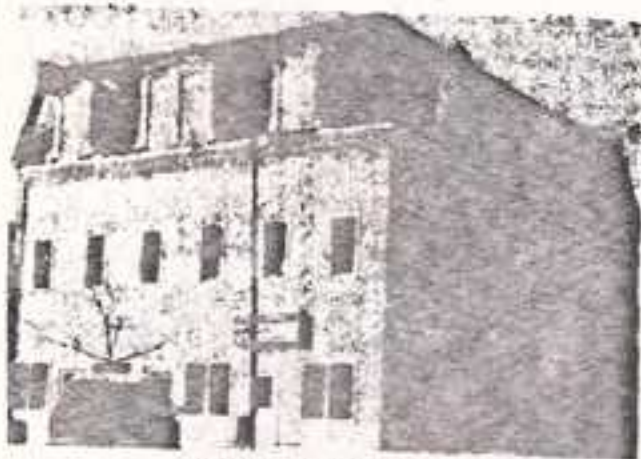
The surname index project is moving along nicely, but you still have time to get your cards and prepare them for the second book. I have the cards, instructions for completing them and can assign you your code number. Cards and instructions are also available at the Archives on Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every week. We have had two family memberships and 4 singles recently and some of them are already preparing their surname cards. Do you have yours? When they are completed you must return them to me and I will turn them over to the state program chairman.

All meetings are open to the public and you are invited to the next meeting of the Clinton County Historical Society, Thursday February 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Federal Savings in St. Johns. The speaker will be Norman Rowley, portraying a Civil War Soldier of the 10th Michigan Infantry, as he is interviewed by newspaper reporters on his way home from Gettysburg in 1863. In addition there will be a general overview of the Civil War and original artifacts will be on display.



# NEWS OVERVIEW

## St. Johns in Clinton County



323 N. CLINTON

The former Odd Fellows Hall in downtown St. Johns, which is in threat of condemnation, was acquired by several local residents and is now an office complex. The renovated building is shown above. Photo courtesy: St. Johns Reminder.

### 2ND ANNUAL MINT FEST PLANNED

St. Johns will hold its' second annual mint fest Aug. 8-10 with 42 activities to be sponsored by area groups already announced. Included will be a pig roast, tours of mint farms, ugly dog contest, pet contest, big wheel race, parade, queens' contest and ball, runs, a commemorative stamp cancellation, BMX trick show, teen rock hop, open air worship service; antique/collectible show/sale; carnival, flea market, children's parade & games, bingo and dunk tents, and square dancing.

## YES! Michigan

### STATE PLANS GALA SESQUICENTENNIAL

Michigan celebrates its 150th birthday next year and officials plan an 18-month event to start in June.

Jan. 26, 1987 is the 150th anniversary of Michigan's admission into the union.

A 32-member commission has been meeting to coordinate events and most every community has similar committees.

State officials have already announced that a \$38 million complex housing the state museum, library and archives will open near the Capitol; and a commemorative copper medallion will be struck.

Other projects include the planting of pine trees around the state.

The state has allocated \$150,000 for sesquicentennial staff costs and \$1.4 million for tourist publicity.

Under consideration is a steam-powered train to travel throughout the state with art and history exhibits; and the commission has written and requested "from England, the return of a flag taken by England in the War of 1812." Officials say they will even "send a delegation over there to get it."

The kick-off will be June 14 in Lansing with details to be announced later.

Your Clinton County Historical Society will again participate with tours at Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum and by assisting with mint historical activities and research.

The festival began last year as a tourist promotion and to honor the growing of mint which hit its heyday here in the early part of this century. About 40 years ago a fungus wiped out many of the mint farms. Research has solved that problem and mint production is now making a come back.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING:

- April 17: Barbara Curtindale with slides of Mt. St. Helen 7:30 p.m. Capitol Federal, St. Johns,
- May 15 Carolyn Lewis with slides of 1857 centennial farms "Then & Now" 7:30 p.m. Capitol Federal, St. Johns
- June 19 Dr. Lattimer with program to be announced later

### GENEALOGY DIVISION OF CCHS

- April 7 Arlynn Gantz on where to find material for copying for the archives. The genealogists are renting a copier in April for that work.

(continued, see next column)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTINUED:

#### PAINE GILLAM SCOTT MUSEM:

- April 2 Museum reopens

#### BATH TOWNSHIP SESQUICENTENNIAL:

- March 29 Easter Egg Hunt
- April 18-20 (tentative) Melodrama "Charity, Sweet Charity"
- May 24 10-K race; 2CBJ dancers & "all school" reunion
- June 21-22 Fireman's water ball contest; ice cream social
- July 2-6 Weekend of activities including: Parade on July 5; Community Church Service, July 6.
- For details call 641-6005 or 349-3760

#### WESTPHALIA SESQUICENTENNIAL:

- May 28 May Crowning/ Ice Cream Social
- July 4-5 150th birthday celebration includes beard contest; parade; special guests from "Westphalias" in other states; parade & old machinery display.



## Clinton County Historical Society

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