



1986

THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1986

What's Happening

Wild Turkeys

The Department released 18 wild turkeys, acquired from Vermont, on February 28, at the Maple River State Game Area, Clinton County—part of a joint DNR/conservation groups long-term effort to increase Michigan's turkey population and expand recreational opportunities in southern Michigan.

Wild turkeys, once gone from Southern Michigan, are expected to thrive there again through the cooperative efforts of the Michigan Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife Habitat Foundation, Michigan DNR and local citizens. The February release site was chosen as the best available turkey habitat.

Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation trustees recently voted to spend up to \$59,000, along with \$5,000 committed by the Michigan Wild Turkey Federation, to import 200 wild turkeys into southern Michigan for release at various sites. Release sites are chosen by DNR wildlife biologists on the basis of available habitat, local land use patterns, and involvement by concerned local residents who volunteer to watch for and prevent poaching.



This 1884 paper cover depicts a May Day dance.

U.S. began air-mail service New York to Washington May 1918.

Clinton County Historical Commission

Ken Coin, a CCHS member, of 109 N. Scott, DeWitt, has been named chairperson of the Clinton County Historical Commission, effective June 30. Until then he will serve as co-chair with Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, also a CCHS member. She has served as chairperson since 1975 when the Commission was created by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.



GENEALOGY

Meet the people

Who Came To Clinton County . . .



Terrible Calamity At Ovid Centre

Boiler Explosion - Four Men Seriously Injured - Death of one of the Victims

One of the most terrible calamities that has visited this part of the country in many years, occurred at Ovid Centre, in this county, about three o'clock on Monday afternoon last. The new grist mill, belonging to Mr. Shepard, which has just been completed at that place, was put into operation for the first time on the previous Saturday. The working of the machinery gave entire satisfaction, and everything indicated that all was in a perfectly safe condition. On Monday, however, just as they were in the act of starting the engine in motion, the boiler exploded, seriously injuring four men, and scattering the fragments in every direction. One end of the mill was almost completely stripped of the siding, and other portions of the building sustained considerable damage. One piece of the boiler, weighing about one ton, was thrown some 16 rods, while another piece still larger, was thrown 10 rods in an opposite direction. Some of the pieces of the wreck were thrown nearly two miles. Edgar Rowling, the fireman, had his right arm broken above the elbow and a large gash cut in his shoulder. His head and face were also badly bruised, and it is thought by his physicians, that he has sustained internal injuries. He is doing as well as the nature of his case will permit. Mr. R. broke his arm about one year since, from the effect of which he was laid up for nearly three months.

Timothy Longcor (Longcor), a young lad about 15 years old, who had been sent to the mill on an errand, sustained serious, and it is thought fatal injuries. His face and head was scalded in a frightful manner. Both his eyes are closed, and it is feared that his eyesight is completely destroyed. He also sustained some bodily injuries, but to what extent is not known.

Ira Longcor (Longcor), a brother of the above, and who is about 13 years old, was badly scalded in the face and breast. His case is not dangerous, however, and he is doing well.

(Continued on next page)

GENEALOGY



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Seek relatives of Parker Scott; Died, Decature Co. Ind. Believed to have family in St. Johns area. Call Janet Snyder (517) 224-4315 or write her at Box 23, St. Johns, Mi. 48879.

Would like to have background information on the William Shepard who laid out the Village of Shepardsville. My grandmother was Bessie Shepard b. 1874 (a twin) parents were Alvin & Maud (Fankhouser) Shepard. Alvin came from N. Y. to Ionia County ca. 1836 with his parents...James and Clarissa (Mosier) Shepard. Clarissa died and James later married Sophronia Pendall or Nancy Pendall. James father & mother were Seth & Ruth (Perry) Shepard. The last two people were parents of 27 children which includes 9 sets of twins. This information was found in an old newspaper item from East Saginaw Herald.

Shepards were located in Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot, Clinton and probably Saginaw Co also.

Mrs. Johnston also has 2 pictures of 2 beautiful children. One is of a boy and girl together, believed to be under ten years of age. On the back it states Mildred & Charles Madden..the second picture is of a baby in a long white christening dress and the back lists Jinnie or Jimmie Madden. These pictures were taken at the Plunkett Studio in St. Johns. She would like to find descendants. The pictures were found in a box of her grandfathers pictures. She also would like to know if there is any connection between Daniel Sly, her grandfather and the Madden's. She is willing to give the photos to any descendants. Contact either Janet Snyder P. O. Box 23, St. Johns, MI or Elaine Johnston, 1909 Bobwhite, Oscoda, MI 48750

EPITATH

Stop traveler as you pass by,
as you are now so once was I.
As I am now so you must be,
prepared for death & follow me

The truth how certain
When this life is o'er,
Saints' die to live
And live to die no more.

DID YOU KNOW...

"Cenotaph" on a tomb indicates an empty monument or tomb erected in honor of a person buried elsewhere.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WESTPHALIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

- May 24 Publication date for Westphalia History book. To reserve a copy send \$18.72 to: Westphalia Historical Society, Westphalia, Mi. 48894. For information call Marie Bengel, 587-6612.
- May 28 May crowning. Ice cream soc.
- July 4-5 150th birthday celebration includes beard contest, parade, special guests from "Westphalias" in other states; old machinery display..

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, LANSING

- May 10 "Lingering Shadow of New France/The Culture of Michigan's French Pioneers," 2 p.m. at Museum, 208 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Free. Lecture includes cultural history of French in Michigan by Dennis M. Au, assistant director, Monroe Co. His. Museum.

Special Mich. Sesquicentennial exhibit, "From Territory to Statehood, 1805 - 1837" runs through June 15 at the museum and there is no admission. For more inf. on museum programs call 373-1979.

MICH. CHAPTER PALATINES TO AMERICA

- May 3 "Tracing German Family History in the U. S. and Germany", St. Mary's Hall, Westphalia. 8 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Assortment of topics with a number of speakers. Registration fee for workshop is \$15 by May 3 and \$18 thereafter. Lunch is \$4 by May 3; \$6 later. Banquet, \$6 by May 3 and \$8 later. Memberships are \$12. To reserve send check, name and address to:

(continued from previous column)

Michigan Chapter, Palatines to America, George Evans, 868 Beechwood St., N.E., Grand Rapids, Mi. 49505

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

- Oct. 16 - 18 "From Canoes to Computers" 19 separate programs; & assorted family activities, exhibits. Clarion Hotel, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing, Mich. To register contact Ruth Lewis, 3800 Glasgow Dr., Lansing, Mi. 48910.

2ND ANNUAL CLINTON COUNTY MINT FEST

- Aug 8-11 Sponsored by St. Johns Chamber of Commerce, over 50 events. Your CCHS will offer tours of PGS and assist with research projects. The festival began in 1985 to honor the growing of mint which hit its heyday in Clinton County in the early 1900's. About 40 years ago a fungus wiped out may mint farms but research has since solved the problem.

MICHIGAN SESQUICENTENNIAL

- June 14 Kick-off in Lansing - details to be announced later.

When kings of old sat down to a banquet, they may have feasted on the finest meats and wines and cheeses ... but never on chocolate.

And that's my way of saying that if you like chocolate, you can sure be thankful you live in this day and age. Because, compared with so many foods that have been around since ancient times, chocolate is a fairly recent discovery.

In fact, the Old World didn't even know it existed until the Spanish explorer Cortez discovered the Aztec Indians enjoying a frothy beverage made from the cacao bean early in the sixteenth century. The Spaniards prized chocolate so highly that they managed to keep the secret of the cacao bean away from the rest of Europe for nearly a hundred years!

When word of this wondrous beverage did leak out, fashionable "chocolate houses" soon sprang up in the capitals of Europe. But chocolate was so costly that only royalty and the very wealthy were able to enjoy it.

Chocolate candy was also available at a price. But it was coarsegrained, and it wasn't until 1876 that smooth, velvety milk chocolate was developed.

Incidentally, both chocolate and cocoa come from the cacao bean. The only basic difference is in the cocoa butter, which is pressed out of cocoa and collected for use in the manufacture of chocolate.

Story
Courtesy
Bob
Beck
of
Beck's
Farm
Market
at
St.
Johns

5 GENEALOGY

(Calamity at Ovid, continued from page 2)

P. A. Winfield, who was working a short distance from the mill when the explosion took place, was struck by a piece of the flying fragments, and rendered insensible for a short time. His face was considerably bruised, but aside from this he escaped unharmed.

M. Doyne (Merlin Doyen), the millwright, who was in the act of helping to start the fly wheel when the explosion occurred, received such serious internal injuries, he died the next day, after much suffering. He resided about three miles east of this village, and leaves a wife and large family to mourn his untimely end.

S. W. Pierce, the miller, formerly of this village, was at his post when the calamity occurred, but escaped without much injury. J. L. Button, of Ovid Centre, was slightly scalded in the face. There appears to be some doubt as to the true cause of the explosion, but as near as we could ascertain there was no water in the boiler at the time it took place. This thing is certain, however, that the boiler was very defective and altogether unfit for use. The total loss will exceed \$2,000.

The article was abstracted from The Clinton Republican St. Johns, Michigan, Friday, Nov. 16, 1866 issue and was provided by Jerrine Mead. She states that The Merlin Doyen has been a family name for many years and he was the great grandfather to Neva Doyen Betzer of Elsie, Frances Doyen Deibert Peterson of St. Johns, and Perry Doyen, who still resides on the family farm, west of Shepardsville. Merlin Doyen also was the great great grandfather of Jerrine Betzer Mead of Elsie. Timothy Longcor was a great great uncle to Donna Clark and Donna's great grandfather was Emmet J. Longcor and Grandfather to Howard Ira Longcor.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

- May 24, 1937—Supreme Court ruled Social Security constitutional.
- May 25, 1844—First news dispatch is sent by telegraph from Washington to Baltimore patriot.
- May 26, 1952—Earthquake in Canton, China, killed 7,000 people.
- May 27, 1796—Piano patented by J. S. McLean.
- May 28, 1963—Windstorms in Bangladesh claimed 22,000 lives.
- May 29, 1935—Federal drug sanatorium in Lexington, Ky., received first patients.
- May 30, 1896—First automobile accident in America, New York City.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

- May 17, 1954—Supreme Court ruled segregation of schools unconstitutional.
- May 18, 1860—Lincoln nominated for president, Chicago, Illinois.
- May 19, 1974—Marianne O'Connor became Notre Dame's first woman valedictorian.
- May 20, 1902—United States turned government of Cuba over to Cuban officials.
- May 21, 1968—U.S. nuclear sub Scorpion lost at sea.
- May 22, 1931—First rattlesnake meat in cans marketed, Arcadia, Florida.
- May 23, 1933—New Yorkers voted 20-1 for repeal of Prohibition.

HAPPY

Mother's Day



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- May 15 Carolyn Lewis with slides of 1857 centennial farms, "Then & Now" at 7:30 p.m. Capitol Federal Savings & Loan in St. Johns
- June 19 Dr. Lattimer with program to be announced later

ELINE GILLAM SCOTT MUSEUM (reopened)

- Hours: Sundays 1-5 p.m.
Wednesdays 2-8 p.m.
- Info: Call 224-2894 or 224-7402

- May 4, 7 & 11
May 10
- MAGNOLIA WEEK CELEBRATION (see regular hours above)
Magnolia Week, 1-5 p.m.
- Magnolia Week exhibit by Clinton County Arts Council

PGS is celebrating Michigan's Sesquicentennial with these special exhibits:

CALENDAR HALL: Clinton events correlated to Michigan.
CAMPAU-FRACE: Descendant of Clinton's first white settler.
CIVIL WAR: Harper's Ferry and John Brown's tie to Clinton.
LEGACY: Bequeathed from Clinton County residents.

GENEALOGY DIVISION OF CCHS

- May 5 Archives, DeWitt, 7:30 p.m. Tour of archives. Copy machine available for use all of May. No charge.

BATH TOWNSHIP SESQUICENTENNIAL

- May 24 10-K race; ZCBJ dancers & "all-school" reunion
- June 21-22 Fireman's Water ball contest; ice cream soc.
- July 2-6 Weekend of events; Parade July 5; Community Church Service, July 6.
- For details call 641-6005 or 349-3760

More events on flyer page



Clinton County Historical Society

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