



1986

THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Ann Hancock of the Capital Area Audubon Society (left) and Dennis Fijalkowski, Executive Director of the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation, prepare for the ribbon cutting at the new Maple River observation tower.

BATH MICHIGAN WESTPHALIA CELEBRATING

Bath, Westphalia and Michigan are all celebrating birthdays this year with activities continuing through the year. Details of upcoming events are included in the Calendar of Events elsewhere in this newsletter.

SPRING 1986 DEDICATIONS

A wildlife observation tower along the Maple River, which wends through Clinton County; and a memorial to veterans in Mt. Rest Cemetery at St. Johns were dedicated this spring.

The 15-foot tower, just across the Clinton/Gratiot line in Gratiot County, overlooks hundreds of acres of wetland/farmland and will be a stop-off/resting place for travelers on U.S. 27. The state game area there is a major stop for spring/fall migratory birds like ducks geese, songbirds and swans; and deer, wild turkeys and many small game animals call it home.

The Mt. Rest marker was dedicated during Memorial Day ceremonies and recognizes veterans of all wars. The existing marker where the annual services were previously held was erected earlier as a memorial to Civil War veterans.

The cemetery was created in 1857 by early St. Johns settlers and has expanded through the years to about 58 acres. The new marker stands in front of the mausoleum which was reroofed and painted inside.

Senior Citizens' Day June 9

DR. LATTIMER TO SPEAK IN JUNE

Dr. John Lattimer, whose family history begins on page 2 of this newsletter, will speak to CCHS members in June on his family history and on his research into the similarities in the Lincoln and JFK deaths. See Calendar of events for details of his talk

GENEALOGY

Meet the people

Who Came To Clinton County . . .



DESCENDANT OF FIRST WHITE SETTLER

Milcah Campau Frace of St. Johns was the second cousin of Clinton County's first white settler, George Campau, who established an Indian trading post at Maple Rapids in 1826. Milcah was born in Detroit Sept. 26, 1877 to Alexander Timothy and Milcah Hadassah Howarth Campau. Her father, Alexander, a prominent lawyer, was the youngest son of Joseph & Adelaide DeQuindre Campau of Detroit and first cousin to George. George and his brothers, Louis, Antoine, Toussaint and Francois were all helped with their education and a start in business by their Uncle Joseph, Louis even living in the household from the age of eight. Joseph Campau had trading posts in Detroit, Saginaw and possibly other cities and sent his nephews to locate other land where they could start posts to barter with Indians. George remained in the Maple Rapids area until 1842 when he moved to Grand Rapids, founded by his brother, Louis, aided by Antoine, Toussaint and Francois. John Johnson, who married Milcah's aunt, daughter of Joseph Campau, purchased the Maple Rapids Trading Post. Her aunt was buried there in 1864 and relatives erected a monument in 1871 for \$1,300. In the early 1890's, on the death of her parents, Milcah (Milli) moved from Detroit to Grand Rapids to live with relatives. She attended County Normal and taught two years before marrying Dr. Guy Henry Frace Aug. 18, 1901. They soon left Grand Rapids and moved to Westphalia for 14 years. Two children, Margaret Milcah, born Oct. 3, 1902 and Henry Guy, Oct. 13, 1912, were born there. About 1916 they moved to 408 E. Walker St., St. Johns and Milcah died there Feb. 26, 1949.

GENEALOGY

THE LATTIMER AND GOOLTHRITE FAMILIES

The Lattimers are descended from a sea captain named John Lattimer, who settled in New London, Conn., about 1640. One of his descendants, Col. Jonathan Lattimer, served in the Revolution and participated in the pivotal Battle of Saratoga. I have many of his hand-written war records.

Some family members moved up the Connecticut River to the Hartford area, and then Levi Lattimer and his wife Abigail (Bartlett) moved to New Hartford (which is now Utica, N.Y.) after the Revolution. Levi's son William (also sons Abijah, Henry, John M. and Jesse) moved first to the Buffalo area, which was too deep in snow, and then took the boat to the promised land of Michigan about 1854.

William and his wife Amanda Warner (from Vermont, related to Ethan Allen) bought a farm in Clinton Co., just east of Matherton near the famous round school house, in 1854, where his son Albert Harvey Fremont James Knox Polk Lattimer was born on April 7, 1856 - Albert had brothers Myron, Charles A. and sister Antoinette. Albert came to live with his uncle Myron J. on Maple Rapids Road, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Jones Road, and married Susan Leanora Goolthrite, (1862-1946) who lived on the contiguous farm to the south.

Their only surviving child, Irvie Eugene Lattimer (1888-1977) who was known for his early electrical experiments at the Hubbardston schools, became an inventor-developer for the Long Lines Transmission Section of the AT&T, the communications giant, in New York.

He helped with the development and transmission of long-distance radio telephones, then radar, then television. Most of the radio telephone station sites all over the world were selected by him. One of his schoolboy chums was the very early flyer Phillip O. Parmelee, who is buried in the Matherton East Plains Cemetery, where Irvie's grandfather William is also buried. Albert, Susan and Irvie are all buried in the Hubbardston West Bank Cemetery.

In 1914 Irvie Lattimer married Gladys Soulier Lenfesty, daughter of a physician of Mount Clemens, Mi. The Lenfestys had come from

Guensey to Canada and later to Michigan. The only child of Irvie and Gladys is John Kingsley Lattimer, M.D., Sc.D., FACS, holder of 4 diplomas from Columbia University in New York City, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons for 25 years. During this time he became President of the American Urological Association, the Societe Internationale D'Urologie, the Society of University Urologists, the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, held Presidential appointments to the World Health Organization, was a Visiting Professor to many medical schools and received the top honors of his own school, the AUA and many other organizations. He recently received the Great Medal of the City of Paris from Mayor Jacques Chirac. He held the AAU 200 meter hurdle record for 14 years and later won the GI Olympics 200 meter hurdles championship after the conquest of Germany.

Professor Lattimer has one daughter, Evan, who is an artist for Hallmark and does many children's book covers. He has 2 sons, Jon, a surgeon and Gary a pathologist, at the Columbia Medical School. (Goolthrite Family to be continued next issue)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CCHS GENERAL MEETING

June 19, Capitol Savings, St. Johns
Dr. Lattimer speaking on
Lincoln/Kennedy deaths,
7:30 p.m. (See Pg.1& 3).

GENEALOGY DIVISION

June 2 Capitol Savings, St. Johns,
Palatines seminar, 7:30 p.m.

BATH SESQUICENTENNIAL CONTINUES

June 21-22 Firemen's Water Ball
contest/ice cream social.
July 2-6 Weekend of activities in-
cludes parade July 5 &
church service July 6

WESTPHALIA - ST. MARY'S 150th

July 4-5 Old time birthday cele-
bration with parade,
old machinery displays.

MICHIGAN SESQUICENTENNIAL

June 14 Kickoff in Lansing. See
Lansing paper for details
later.



"... and the reason we have summer vacation is so you
can go home to help with the crops."



Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174

Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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JUNE
And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
When Heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays.
And whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it gladden,
—James Russell Lowell
The Vision of Sir Launfal

GANTZ, ARLYNN

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