



# Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174

Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

## THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT



### GREENBUSH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LISTED IN STATE REGISTER

The Greenbush United Methodist Church, a rectangular, cross-gable-roofed wooden building has been listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

The church, with a corner, jug-shaped open belfry topped by a soaring pyramidal roof, rests on a fieldstone foundation. It has lancet-shaped entrance pavillion, pointed arch window enframements, with arched, recessed dormers punctuating its' belfry.

The church has historical significance as it is the oldest Methodist congregation in central Clinton County.

It's history dates to 1849 when Rev. William Benson of Rochester Colony organized a class of 7 people. That nucleus became the congregation. Services were held in various log buildings.

In May 1895 following a "great revival" preached by James Connolly, agitation began for a church building.

(continued on page 2)



Greenbush United Methodist  
Church



# In The News

GREENBUSH CHURCH (continued from page 1)

## CLINTON HOME CENTER BURNS HISTORIC BUILDING LOST

(Excerpted from Clinton County News of 2/10/87)

"Flames shot high into the sky (on 2/7/87) and lighted up downtown St. Johns Saturday night as six fire departments battled a blaze that completely destroyed the Clinton Home Center at 108 E. Railroad St."

Thousands of residents, some with "cameras or video recorders, lined downtown streets...to witness the biggest fire disaster in St. Johns since the ... Steel Hotel" burned in 1975.

Greg Penix, owner, said he had closed the store about 4 p.m.

The state fire marshall's office investigated and said the blaze began in the center of the building but cause was not determined. Arson was ruled out.

The 12,000 square foot building housed St. Johns' main livery stables at the turn of the century. The sprawling building later became a distribution center for mint oil produced by area farmers.

The building has been owned by the Penix family for about 25 years.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SOUGHT AT BATH.....

Bath Community School officials want to identify graduates from Bath High School who have made noteworthy contributions to society at local, state or national levels. Officials said they especially need names of people from 1937 to 1976.

Anyone with information should write: Distinguished Alumni Committee, Box 159, Bath, Mich. 48808 or call (517) 641-6724.

Within the next 2 years church members purchased the Grange building and added land for church sheds. Henry Hewitt, a Maple Rapids carpenter, drafted plans. Completed at a cost of just under \$4,000, the frame and fieldstone church was dedicated for worship on Aug. 28, 1898.

The church is at the corner of Scott and Marshall Roads in Greenbush Township about 5 miles northeast of St. Johns.

## CCHS DUES DUE

Our treasurer, Janet Tiedt, reminds members that the 1987 dues are now due.

Send name and address, with check, to her at 551 N. Main St., Fowler, 48835-0044.

Dues are \$4 single; \$7 for couples.

## THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE MICHIGAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of Michigan and the state for which it stands, two beautiful peninsulas, united by a bridge of steel, where equal opportunity and justice to all is our ideal.

*"When the ground was partially bare of snow, and a few warm days had dried its surface somewhat, it was pleasant to compare the first tender signs of the infant year just peeping forth with the stately beauty of the withered vegetation which had withstood the winter—life-everlastings, goldenrods, pinweeds and graceful grasses, more obvious and interesting frequently than in summer even, as if their beauty was not ripe till then; even cotton-grass, cattails, mulleins, johnswort, hardhack and meadowsweet...decent weeds, at least, which widowed nature wears."*

—from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*,  
"The Pond in Winter"





## CLINTON FLAG REDISCOVERED

At their January 27, 1987 Clinton County Board of Commissioner meeting, county officials displayed a county flag none knew existed. It had been in the basement of the courthouse for 46 years.

The 5 by 8 foot silk flag was fished from a storage room by Roy Spicer, county buildings maintenance supervisor. He said he knew it was there, packed with flags the county uses for special occasions. But he never knew its' meaning.

Spicer got it out after Geneva Wiskemann, chairwoman of the county board's Historical Commission, asked about it.

She said every county had a flag given them by the J. L. Hudson store in Detroit. She had read about it in a book titled, "Special Flags of Michigan Counties." It was a limited edition that told the story about how Hudson's had silk flags made for every county in the state in 1940.

Wiskemann said the firm enjoyed a reputation for its contributions to Michigan art. When the flag exhibit closed the store gave each county its' flag.

Clinton's is a multi-colored flag and it sparked interest because, along with the word "CLINTON" in the center, was a spray of mint leaves.

Several years ago the St. Johns Area Chamber of Commerce began an annual Mint Festival and the crop, which declined in the early 1900's, is making a come-back.

Also on display in the commissioners room is a new Sesquicentennial flag denoting the state's year-long Sesquicentennial celebration this year.

## Michigan's Sesquicentennial 1837-1987

Celebrate Michigan's 150th birthday with the many exciting books about the Great Lakes State now

available through Michigan Book Central.



### **The Northern Lights**

*Charles K. Hyde*

\$27.95 Code 7R512

This delightful new book is both a history of and a guide to more than 150 lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Divided in two parts, the first four chapters provide the reader with a history of the U.S. Lighthouse Service and the growth of lighthouse operations on the Great Lakes; a brief summary of the changing design of lighthouses; and finally, a history of the light keepers, their work and life. The second part outlines the histories of more than 150 lighthouses on the Great Lakes, region by region. Large in size, and 208 pages in length, this hardcover book contains nearly 300 photographs with 219 in full color. It is definitely a book you will enjoy reading and viewing, again and again.

### **Michigan, A History Of The Wolverine State**

*W. Dunbar and G. May*

\$24.95 Code 7R505

This book is widely accepted as the most comprehensive and authoritative history of Michigan's first four centuries, and no home library should be without this valuable reference. 800 pages in hardcover.

### **Great Lakes Shipwrecks**

*William Ratigan*

\$9.95 Code 7R502

This popular anthology of ship's lore and adventure has enchanted readers ever since it was first published in 1960. Captivating tragic tales of schooners, steamers, and freighters which perished in the fury of the raging storms that haunt the Great Lakes. Softcover, 400 pages.

To order make check payable to "State of Michigan" and send to Michigan Natural Resources Magazine, Box 30034, Lansing, MI 48909. Credit card holders may order by phone Toll Free: In Michigan call 1-800-292-2525, Out-of-state call 1-800-248-5848.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 19 7:30 p.m. Capitol Federal Savings & Loan, St. Johns  
Tentative program -  
Almond Cressman

### GENEALOGY DIVISION

March 2 Mich. History by Arlene Lounds, Capitol Federal Savings & Loan, St. Johns, 7:30 p.m.

April 6 Election of officers, Janet Snyder on "Gazateer & Directory" 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Federal Savings & Loan, St. Johns.

ARCHIVES: At DeWitt Township Hall, Brook Road, one block SE of U.S. 27 & State. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays

### PAINE GILLAM SCOTT MUSEUM

(On Maple Street, across from the Courthouse in St. Johns)

Closed for winter; Reopens Apr.5

APRIL 25 1 p.m. Most Holy Trinity Cemetery, Fowler, "A 50th Year Remembrance" of Clements A. Sohn who gave his life in Paris April 25, 1937....

Sohn, known as the original bat-wing jumper, was promoting aviation, when he was killed while jumping.

Displays at the "50th Remembrance" will include his bat-man wings; and an aviation display courtesy of the Michigan Historical Museum.

Anyone with memorabilia, vocal or artifacts should contact Catherine Rumbaugh, 224-7402 or Charles Coletta, CCHS president, 224-4577.



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Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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