

October, 1988

# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

## CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Ken Coin

Archives Director

It has been a long hot summer (who didn't know that?) but that didn't stop progress at the Archives. In case the heat scared you off and you didn't make a visit here this past season, this report should bring you up-to-date on some of the changes, acquisitions and current projects at your archives.

We have made yet another move. Yes, its true! Must be the gypsy in us. We are still located in the DeWitt township hail but are back again in the north hallway, next to the room we formerly occupied. We are still cramped for space and recent developments (mentioned later) have only compounded our situation. If any of you have any ideas or suggestions for a larger, more permanent and centralized location for our Archives please let myself or one of the Society officers know about it.

This past season brought many important acquisitions to the Archives' collection. First and foremost of these were the county tax assessments and tax rolls for the years 1881 thru 1949 (excluding 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 which were transferred to the State Archives) and village tax rolls up to 1927, some dating back to the 1870's. This collection of several hundred BIG ledgers is a semi-permanent loan from the Clinton County Commissioners. They presented quite a challenge to our storage abilities but the Archives, the Society, all of Clinton county and future researchers everywhere are greatly indebted to county treasurer, Patricia Purtill for her insistance and persistance that these irreplaceable records not be destroyed (as mandated by the state) but preserved for the future and entrusted in the care of our Society's Archives.

If you have never before used tax and assessment rolls for local and family research you don't know what you're missing as they can offer a wealth of information. Thank you Pat Purtill, thank you county commissioners, and a special thanks to Bill Serviss, Bob Welton and Stuart and Arlene Smith for breaking their backs to move these ledgers from the basement of the courthouse to the Archives and especially to the Smiths for the use of their horse-trailer for transport.

Open to the public: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Archives is always anxious to acquire old school records and we were glad to receive from Donald and Etta Smith a large assortment of records of the Lowe school (Essex township) dating from 1892 to 1930. Early school records such as these are an invaluable resource for genealogists and we encourage you, if you have any in your possession, to share them with others by donating them to the Archives. Likewise, early township records are of vital importance to family and local history research. In this area our collection is small but growing and the Smiths also enlarged this by their donation of some records of Essex township dating from the 1880's to the 1920's.

We received several family genealogies this summer, including:

The Brass family; the Harper, Delp and Krebel families of Riley twp. and Medina Co., Ohio; The Boulton family of Olive twp. and DeWitt; several works on the Simmons families of Eagle, Riley and Olive twps. and Shiawassee Co.; the Hurd family of DeWitt twp.; the Keeney family.....the list goes on.

We have also received numerous photographs to add to our ever-expanding photo collection. Archives volunteer Myrna VanEpps has done an outstanding job of organizing, identifying and indexing our collection to make it readily available to researchers. We are always delighted to accept county-area photographs of places, events or persons (identified or unidentified) of Clinton's past.

Another major acquisition "in the works" concerns the collection of Clinton county newspapers at the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University. They have offered this collection be returned to this area and have stated that these may be released to us yet this month. This collection roughly consists of Clinton county newspapers from 1863 to 1940. Accepting them was easy but, finding room for them at the Archives may be another story.

One of the best things to come down the pike this summer was a new copy machine, one of two purchased by the Society. This long needed tool has already been put to good use by researchers and for in-house projects.

Wilma Sowle, our Archivist, did not let the summer slow her down as she implemented many improvements and supervised the recent move. She is currently busy organizing our seemingly endless bits of paper and news clippings into a very workable vertivle file. But she is never too busy to help the reasers with her personal knowledge of Clinton county history and expertise as a top-notch genealogist. Another of her many projects, she has recently completed an index of another summer acquisition, a volume of minutes from the St. Johns G.A.R. Post. (Civil War soldiers and veterans are of a special interest to Wilma)

As the refreshing cool of autumn approaches and the hurried pace of summer draws to a close, I invite you to become better acquainted with your Archives. There's no time like the present to begin that research project you've been meaning to get to. Our hours are still Monday thru Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. We would like to see these hours expand if volunteers can be found to staff it. If you think you might be interested in volunteering time to keep us open or to work on Archives' projects, give me a call. And remember, just because you volunteer to help at the Archives doesn't mean you have to work on Archives' projects while you're there. It can be a great way to allocate a certain amount of time each week to devote to your own personal project.

INTRODUCING:  
**HERITAGE QUEST ROAD SHOW  
SPEAKERS**



Bill Dollarhide

As the result of a family argument at Thanksgiving dinner "... in the '60's sometime" about where the name *Dollarhide* originated, Bill Dollarhide determined to set his relatives straight and discover the true origin of the family name. Now, twenty years later he still "... hasn't found out for sure". One thing is now known, however. Genealogy in the United States has never been the same since!

Educated at the Edison Technical Institute and the University of Washington, both located in Seattle, Washington, Bill Dollarhide has been a practicing genealogist since 1970. In 1980 he formed the **Dollarhide Systems for Genealogy Records** specializing in genealogical record systems, maps and computer software for genealogists. Mr. Dollarhide is the author of the *Dollarhide System*; the *Manual Record System*; *Census Research Kit*; *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*; *Family Research Manager* computer software program. His newest book is *Managing a Genealogical Project*. He is currently a third-term city councilman and mayor pro-tem of the city of Blaine, Washington and a contributing editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine*.

Mr. Meitzler and Mr. Dollarhide lecture about using the Federal and State censuses, organizing family data, little-used genealogical resources, numbering systems and computer use in genealogy. They also discuss techniques for contacting relatives and offer instruction on getting started in genealogy.

The science (and hobby) of genealogy is quickly becoming one of the world's major pastime activities and the United States is no exception. Millions of Americans are involved in genealogy to one extent or another. Whether a person considers himself a novice or professional genealogist, Leland Meitzler, Bill Dollarhide and the **Heritage Quest Road Show** provide a memorable genealogical experience.



Leland K. Meitzler

In 1981, Leland Meitzler enrolled in a community college family history (genealogy) course because he needed an elective to complete his college academic requirements. What he discovered in that class changed the entire course of his professional life. For within a very short time, Mr. Meitzler became "hooked" on the science of genealogy.

Soon thereafter, working with his brother Steve, an idea was born: **HERITAGE QUEST, The International Genealogy Forum and Heritage Quest Magazine**. The rest, as they say, is history.

Mr. Meitzler has now become a nationally recognized name in the field of genealogy. In the process of promoting the HQ member organization and magazine, he has quietly emerged as a sought-after genealogist, researcher and lecturer. Broad experience in all phases of genealogy has helped to develop this colorful, gregarious genealogist into an informative and entertaining speaker - delighting audiences across the country.

Mr. Meitzler is the co-founder of **HERITAGE QUEST** and managing editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine*.

# Heritage Quest Road Show

Dear Genealogy Society Members and Friends,

This cover letter and enclosed brochure is to inform you that the Clinton County Historical Society, together with Heritage Quest, *The International Genealogy Forum*, are sponsoring the HERITAGE QUEST ROAD SHOW in your area very soon. (Please see the date, location and time at the end of this letter.)

The *Heritage Quest* ROAD SHOW is a mobile genealogy education program created specifically for the members and guests of genealogy societies all over the United States. One of *Heritage Quest's* co-founders, Leland Meitzler, is the ROAD SHOW manager. Mr. Meitzler is a colorful, gregarious genealogist who speaks engagingly about many little-known genealogical research sources and techniques. Also representing *Heritage Quest* is Bill Dollarhide, author of *Map Guides to the U.S. Federal Census*, the *Dollarhide System* and *Family Research Manager* computer software. Bill is a contributing editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine* and has joined *Heritage Quest* on the ROAD SHOW. Leland and/or Bill lecture about using the Federal and State censuses, organizing family data, little-used genealogical resources, numbering systems and computer use in genealogy.

In addition to the lecture program, the *Heritage Quest* ROAD SHOW is an enormous traveling genealogy supermarket. Accompanying Leland and/or Bill will be hundreds of genealogy books, maps, charts, indexes, computer software programs, cards, forms, genealogy paraphernalia and other research aids. This program is provided as a service to you by *Heritage Quest*. As far as we know, there is nothing else like this anywhere.

The *Heritage Quest* ROAD SHOW has been contoured to fit precisely into a pre-designed format and time frame as a stand-alone entity. The day's activities will begin at 6:30 P.M. and last until about 10:00 P.M. The ROAD SHOW is designed to further your genealogical education and help you access the valuable reference and research aids you need to solve some of those tough research problems. **f**

Due to the fact Leland and Bill carry the books, research aids, supplies, etc. with them to each ROAD SHOW, you will not have to pay any postage and handling on the items you purchase at the ROAD SHOW, which means your hard-earned funds will go farther at the *Heritage Quest* ROAD SHOW!

Looking forward to seeing you at the ROAD SHOW,

Hazel Mills, Field Coordinator  
*Heritage Quest* ROAD SHOW

**ROADSHOW DATE: OCTOBER 18, 1988**

**LOCATION: SWEGLES ST. SCHOOL  
401 S. SWEGLES ST.  
ST. JOHNS, MI 48879**

**TIME: 6:30P.M.**

**FEE: \$1.00/DONATION**

## SESQUICENTENNIAL NOTES

Among the projects now in the developemental stage are:  
A 1989 Sesquicentennial Calander noting hundreds of significant dates from Clinton county's past.

Publishing a "primer" history of Clinton county's origins for local and school distribution.

Reprinting vintage postcard views from around the county, perhaps as note cards

Sponsoring a Sesquicentennial Certificate project (very similar to the State program of 1987) to be awarded to persons proving descent from a Clinton pioneer of 1839 or prior.

Anyone wishing to help with any of these projects is encouraged to contact one of the above mentioned persons. At this point what is needed most is someone(s) with some time to perform the legwork of getting printing costs.

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### NEW COMMITTEE FORMED

Randy has formed a new committee to study projects which the society might like to take a look at in the future. Put your thinking caps on and let him know that you are interested in helping with this committee. Or if you cannot serve on the committee, at least give him your ideas.

The program committee also needs ideas for Historical Society programs for January through June. Call Catherine Reed or Arlene Lounds.

\* \* \* \* \*

### GUNNISONVILLE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!!!

On Sunday, September 18, a State plaque was given to Margaret Stampfly, Oliver and Mildred Angell, Ina Cook, Mr & Mrs Cecil Rhynard, elder members of the Gunnisonville Church, by Jerry Roe of the State Historical Commission.

A potluck dinner and program followed the presentation. Many visitors enjoyed the "catching up" of old times and many "I remember"s could be heard throughout the evening.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETING, October 4, at 7:00pm at the Archives in the DeWitt Charter Township hall. GEN Society members willing to help with Clinton County Sesquicentennial Certificate project are also asked to attend as this will be somewhat of a joint meeting. Gen-Society members are also encouraged to attend to give any input into the Archives' plans, objectives and procedures. There will be much to accomplish at this meeting so be prepared to stay late. Those attending will be given their choice of assigned "fun assignments". Those not attending will be assigned "hideous tasks". Those caught sneaking out early without assignments will be shot.

GENEALOGY MEETING, October 3, at 7:30pm in the Capitol Savings and Loan Bank building, program to be given by Myra Spike on Focus on family in Ireland.

Accompanying this newsletter is a brochure on the Heritage Quest program planned for October..

### Old Newspapers Wanted

The Archives are interested in newspapers prior to 1980. Talk to Wilma Sowle if you have papers you wish to donate to the Archives.

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### Clinton County Sesquicentennial

Did you know that Clinton County's Sesquicentennial is only six months away? This Society has been trying to get a jump on things since early this summer when Catherine Rumbaugh, Janet Snyder and Ken Coin, representing the Museum, Gen Society and the Archives began putting their heads together to plan for projects for this milestone in Clinton's history. You will be hearing much more on plans being formulated.

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Secretary needed for Historical Society due to resignation. If interested, talk to Randy Phelps.



## Clinton County Historical Society

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