



Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174

Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

JANUARY 1988

GRANDMOTHER'S STORY

Nancy DeLong, daughter of Awry and Polly DeLong, was born in Chautauqua County, New York, October 4, 1834 and departed this life August 3, 1923, at the age of 88 years, 9 months and 30 days.

In her childhood, she came with her parents to Michigan. The trip was made by oxen team, taking nearly two months.

She has often told of the first team of horses they saw approaching as they were traveling in Southern Michigan. The men unhitched the team and led them into the forest. The children clung to their parents, peering from behind trees at what seemed to them huge monsters.

On reaching Jackson the entire family was taken ill. Here they were forced to remain weeks before resuming their journey. From here they came directly to Lebonon and settled on a farm now known as the Emerson Vance farm.

Her early life was one of hardships. The land was wooded and not yet touched by the advance of civilization. The nearest trading point was at Lyons, a distance of 12 miles. When a young girl she made the trip each week on foot for supplies. When older she rode horseback, bringing back the family provisions in baskets strapped to the saddle.

Grand Rapids was the milling point, then but a small place of a few stores. Here they took their grain, taking six weeks to make the trip with the oxen team. There were no roads and the drivers took the oxen to blaze trails through the dense forests. Their lives were often endangered by wild beasts and savage red men.

Under these circumstances she lived and grew to womanhood, seeing the country advance step by step each year.

In 1857 she was united in marriage to Samuel Brooks. To this union was born five children: Fred Brooks of Elmira, Michigan, Clark Brooks of Lebonon, Elmer Brooks of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Fred Pfeil of Lebonon and Orson Brooks of Ithaca.

After their marriage they made their home in Matherton for about four years and from there to a farm in Lebonon where they spent the remainder of their lives.

In 1861 her husband enlisted in the Union Army serving for nine months and she was left with three small children. After he returned her brother Walter, enlisted and nearly two years later was killed at Stone River in a skirmish.

In 1902 her husband was called by death and since she has resided with her son, Clark.

In October, 1922 she met with an accident from which she never recovered. She was a patient sufferer and she was faithfully and lovingly cared for by her children.

In early life, she united with the Baptist Church of Pewamo, continuing steadfast in her religious faith and hope of Eternal Life.

She leaves to mourn her loss, five children, nine grandchildren and a brother Abram of California, two remaining girlhood friends; Mrs. Cynthia Abbott of Maple Rapids and Jane Haight of North Plains and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at the home, conducted by Rev. Boatwright of Maple Rapids. Interment was made in East Plains Cemetery. Relatives from Gaylord, Alba, Ionia, Muir and Portland attended the funeral.

The story above is about Nina Waldron's grandmother. The Lebonon referred to is Lebonon Township.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

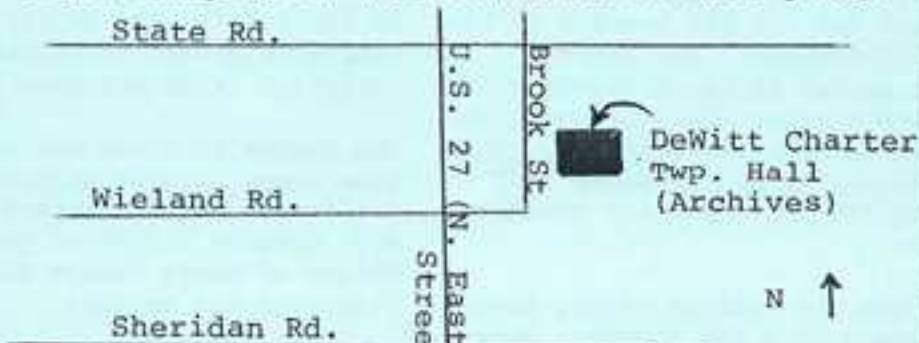
An organizational meeting of the newly created ARCHIVES COMMITTEE of the Clinton County Historical Society will be held:

TUESDAY, January 12, 1988, 7:30 p.m.

at the Archives, located in the DeWitt Township Hall, 4700 Brook St., Lansing (Valley Farms).

This new committee has been charged with the responsibility of promoting and maintaining the ARCHIVES and to coordinate projects, goals and policy relating to its collection.

Anyone interested in the preservation and promotion of Clinton county's history, through this splendid resource center, is encouraged to participate in the formation of this group.



For further information:
Ken Coin
Archives Director

ph. 669-9448

BILE, DON'T BILE

This description of "wash day" in the "good old days" was discovered in a recipe book said to be more than 100 years old. The "wash day" description is reprinted here just as it was written in the old book---word for word including spelling.

1. Build a fire in back yard to heat kettle of rain water or water drawn from the well.
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow ineyes if wind is pert.
3. Sort things, one of white, one cullord, one pile work britches and rags.
4. Shave cake of soap into bilin water if you have it or use lots of white soap.
5. Stur flour in cold water to smooth, thin down with boilin water for starch.
6. Rub clothes on bord, then bile, rub cullord. Don't bile, rench and starch.
7. Take white things out of kittle with broom handle, rench, blew and starch.
8. Spread the towels on grass to dry.
9. Hang rags on fence.
10. Pore rench water on flower bed.
11. Scrub porch with soapy water.
12. Turn tubs upside down.
13. Put on clean dress, smoth hair with side combs, brew a cup of tea, set and rock and rest a spell and count your blessings.

JOIN YOUR SOCIETY

Be sure and pay your dues for 1988 to Arlene Tiedt. The Clinton County Historical Society is your society. It is what each of us make it. Try and bring in a new member. There are lots of folks out there that don't know what they are missing.

A friend is a push when you've stopped, a word when you're lonely, a guide when you're searching, a smile when you're sad and a song when you're glad.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENEALOGY REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 4, 1988

The Genealogy Meeting will be at the Capitol Federal Savings and Loan Bank, Jan. 4 at 7:30 pm. The program will be on Funeral Home Records.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING JANUARY 21, 1988

The Clinton County Historical Society will meet at the St. Joseph's Church in the basement, January 21, at 7:30 pm. Arlene Lounds will tell of the Church's History.

Come to these meetings and bring a friend. Good friendship and good fellowship and best of all, we all learn more of our community's background and history-

Everyone remember to keep cash receipts from Beck's Market to turn in for cash. This is one way to earn money for the Society.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES ENJOYED

The Genealogists Christmas party at Jerrine Meade's and the Society's party at the Museum were both enjoyed by the participants.

Pasqua Warstler and Kitty Donaho told of their forthcoming book, Bunyon and Banjoes, which could be purchased for \$8.00. From the book, Kitty sang about Michigan Rivers, French Voyaguers, and Looie Sands and Jim McGee.

DID YOU KNOW

That in 1900 the Secretary of State's office reported there were 3,391 farms in Clinton County, containing 243,230 acres of improved and 71,614 acres of unimproved land. The average number of acres in each farm was 93 acres.

That in 1901 Clinton County consisted of 129 school districts, controlled by 405 school officials. There was 170 teachers for over 5,000 students.

That F. H. Bush owned the first automobile in Clinton County.



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