

JULY 1988

# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

## CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### IN THE MARSH

Dedicated to Adele Jones' Marsh.

I'd like to introduce you to one of my best friends: a small marsh. To most people, a marsh seems like a nasty place to visit. Even with all the wild life there, people sometimes only notice the hordes of mosquitoes, horseflies, and deerflies. But to me, this place is close to paradise.

As you carefully wade into the marsh, the first thing you notice is the dragonflies. They are everywhere, coming in and out of sight, chasing prey or mates, and escaping from foes. Dragonflies have a territory, their little corner of the marsh, which they defend from other dragonflies. By protecting their territory, they are sure of having enough food for themselves and for their offspring.

Look closely at the cattails and you will see some "naiads" Naiad is the name we give to young dragonflies. A naiad can spend up to two years in the water, crawling around, eating insects until it is old enough to turn into an adult.

Listen: wrong, wrong, wrong. A bullfrog is contesting. Its powerful call betrays its location near the edge of the water. Its feet touch the bottom so it can leap to safety should it be endangered. Wrong, wrong wrong, the sound is so loud that you feel the vibrations through your body.

Are you still with me? Now we enter the cattails. They are much taller then we are growing up to nine feet.

You may see a deerfly lay its eggs on some cat tail leaves. The deerfly lays them like little bricks, one on top of the other. At first they are creamy white, but soon they turn black and hard but not hard enough to protect them from a ladybug who will eat many of them.

The last thing many people expect in a marsh are spiders but many do live here, especially the tiny jumping spider, named because it doesn't spin a web, it just jumps on its prey. The six spotted fishing spider runs on top of the water and plunges to catch tadpoles and small fishes.

Whoops, something tickle your toes? Its probably some catfish. Later on the blue herons will feed on the catfish. The kingfisher bird hops from branch to branch, stares at the water, then splashes down headfirst and comes up with a fish in its beak.

Look now between the cattails, a turtle is coming this way. The day goes on. You can hear the "RRRAK RRRRAK, RRRRAK OF a small hen like bird hiding in its nest. Ducks fly overhead and if you are lucky, you may see a mother duck and her dozen ducklings. You see a snail who slowly pops an eye out to see if its safe. And there is the whirrigig beetle who goes round and round on the water.

And the fragile damselflies mating and laying eggs in the cattails. And the harmless redbellied snake swimming with its head held high.

When somebody tells you that marshes are worthless you can smile. You know better!

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#### A NOTE FROM THE ARCHIVES

Before bringing newspapers into the Archives, please ask to see if they are needed. This will prevent our getting a lot of duplicates.

## MEETING DATES

JULY 21, 1988: The Clinton County Historical Society will hold its annual picnic on Thursday at 6:30pm. This will be at the Fowler Conservation Park located on Wright Road, south of Fowler. Dr. John Lattimore will be the speaker, showing slides of his experiences at the Neurenburg trials. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

AUGUST 1, 1988: The Clinton County Genealogists will meet at the home of Arlene Lounds, 1887 Yallop Rd, St. Johns, Michigan. Bring a dish to pass and your table service.

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Apologies To Those Who Came to hear Dr. Lattimore on the fourth Thursday of June. WE found out that Dr. Lattimore couldn't come, so changed the meeting night back to the third Thursday. The program was on Early Toys. The change was announced in the St. Johns papers.

## HELPERS NEEDED

The museum will need workers for the St. Johns Mint Festival. Anyone who can help contact Katherine Rumbaugh.

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Its easy to say let George do it, but don't let George have all the fun. Erma Bombeck said it best when she told of a complete standstill of all activities the day there were no volunteers.

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Monday, October 12, 1863

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Clinton assembled at Clinton Hall, village of ST. Johns, meeting called to order by Porter K. Perrin, Deputy County Clerk. Members responding to call were Thomas Woodman, Bath, Isaac Swathout, Victor, Wm. Bennett, Ovid, John Sickles, Duplain, Fred'k Reed, DeWitt, Sidney Alexander, Olive, Henry Perrin, Bingham, Miron Ellis, Greenbush, Geo. Jarvis, Watertown, Lyman Hungerford, Riley, Leonard Travis, Bengal, Rowland Van Scoy, Essex, and Charles Derbyshire, Eagle.



## Clinton County Historical Society

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