

JULY 1989

THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

THE HICKS MANSION

The State Journal
November, 1973

The old wooden doors of the Hicks mansion in St. Johns, with their hand cut frosted glass, are a bulwark against the changes of time. For 100 years they have stood fast against the pressures of two centuries, the new trying to supplant the old.

The old doors have won their battle, and walking into the mansion is like walking back into the Victorian era, with fringe and fancy-legged furniture.

It was a time when wealthy men built opulent houses and flaunted their gardens and running waterfalls. All that the house represents has survived the passage of time and in fact, is improving every day.

Room by room, the mansion is being renovated by its two new owners, Doug Carpenter and Morris Apple. Floors and walls are being stripped and redone with new paper and paint and period antiques are being sought to fill the large rooms.

"The house was built in 1873 by a man from Canada," said Carpenter. He came to St. Johns when the railroad did."

When the 20 room mansion was built by John Hicks, he had already amassed fortunes in the lumber and retail trade business. The house shows his close relationship to the lumber industry. The huge beams that support the third floor must have come from unusually large trees.

The house has seven bedrooms, five bathrooms, and a large roomy kitchen. The kitchen was remodeled two or three decades ago, to the dismay of the new owners. They intend to put it back to 19th century style as soon as possible.

Working together, the two men have managed to finish redecorating the huge 15 by 33 foot living room. They have researched every fixture that came with the house down to the tile on the fireplaces. The house has five fireplaces with various types of tile.

The dining room was the next room finished. Its draperies are designed after those in the White House. The massive table and buffet server is a remnant of the Olds days and is the only furniture that came with the house.

They are in the process of redecorating the Gold Room, a small living room that has a floor to ceiling gilt mirror at least 110 years old.

All in all, the house lives up to claims made by the Detroit Daily Post on May 30, 1873. John Hicks is building a fine two story brick home at an estimated cost of \$15,000. When finished it will be the finest in the county.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 10, 1989 The Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society will meet at the Capitol Savings and Loan Bank at 7:30pm. The program will be on the Daughters of the American Revolution.

July 20, 1989 The Clinton County Historical Society will have their meeting at the St. Anne's Episcopal Church on the corner of Webb and US 27. This will be our annual picnic, bring your table service and a dish to pass. Good food, good friends and good companionship should not be passed by.

July 20, 21, 22, 1989 The Society will have a booth in front of the McKenzie Insurance Company. We'll have books, cups, pins, memberships and other information on hand. This is in conjunction with St. Johns Sidewalk days.

August 7 The Genealogists will meet at the Greenbush Methodist Church in Greenbush Township.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
EIGHTH GRADE
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2
BENGAL JUNE 15, 1900

Nellie M. Travis
Myrtle B. Thurston
Florence E. Scriven
Anna M. Risley
Charlie H. Jury
Ezra C. Sturgis
Milan N. Perry
Frank E. Atkins

MISS FRANCES CHURCH, TEACHER

1896 Agriculture Report

The most reliable signs point to a great ingathering of the products of the soil this year. The year 1896 promises to be memorable on the calendars as a season of abundance



**Clinton County
Historical Society**

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