

APRIL 1990

THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

THE COUNTY PIONEERS

THE CLINTON REPUBLICAN June 15, 1905

The 31st annual meeting of the Clinton County Pioneer Society was held at the Court House Saturday. Notwithstanding the stormy day there were many pioneers present from all parts of the county. The court room was decorated with flags and flowers.

After a social hour the meeting was called to order, at 11 o'clock, by the president, Jay Sessions. The minutes were read and approved. The secretary's report showed that 51 new members had been added during the year for which \$12.75 membership dues had been received. The society was organized January 15, 1874, with William Brunson as chairman. Since that time about 1100 names have been entered upon the roll. The report of the treasurer, J. C. Jewett, showed \$51.51 on hand. Mrs. Rachel Brink read the obituary report. During the past year the society had lost 9 members by death.

The following are the names of the members who have died since June, 1904. Mrs. John Wandel, of Riley, died June 28, aged 73 years; Mrs. DeWitt H. Hunt, of St. Johns, died July 8, aged 45 years; Homer W. Hale, of Bingham, died July 6, aged 90 years; George W. Thomas, of Grand Ledge, a former resident of Eagle, died November 20, aged 72 years; Joanna M. Fritz, of Laingsburg, a former resident of Victor, died December, aged 66 years; James Cortright, of DeWitt, died February 16, aged 66 years; Mrs. Hannah Hale, of Bingham, died March 30, aged 73 years; John Parks, of Dallas, died April 28, aged 80 years; Mrs. William P. Ladd, of Essex, died May 5, aged 72 years.

C. W. Root, of Maple Rapids, sang "The Model Church," after which the following officers were elected for the coming year; President, Jay Sessions; Vice President, Dorr K. Stowell; Secretary, Mrs. C. L. Pearce; Treasurer, J. C. Jewett; Chairman of the Obituary committee, Mrs. Rachel Brink. Mrs. Brink has been chairman of this committee for 9 years and Mrs. Pearce, secretary for 5 years. The meeting then adjourned until 2 o'clock.

At the afternoon session prayer was offered by Rev. J. E. Foote, of Maple Rapids and a duet was sung by Rev. and Mrs. Foote. President Sessions read the following list of persons who came to their respective townships not later than 1840 and are still living in the same township. (The list read was published in the Clinton Trails, Volume 4 Number 1 issue, 1989)

C. W. Root sang "Hurrah for Old New England," after which a history of Essex was read by J. C. Jewett, a history of Greenbush, by Mrs. L. G. Loomis, of Bingham, by Theodore H. Townsend, of Lebanon, by Jay Sessions and of Victor by Frank Upton. These histories will be published in The Republican. Each one was not only interesting but instructive. About 20 little children from the first and second grades of the Union school, directed by Miss Bessy Pulfrey, sang two pretty pieces. C. W. Root sang "The Trundle Bed Song" and Mrs. F. A. Travis gave a reading.

The society voted to hold the annual picnic at Marle Beach in August, the date to be decided upon by the president and the secretary.

After extending a vote of thanks to all who assisted in preparing and rendering the excellent program, the society adjourned.

NOTES FROM THE MUSEUM

The Scott-Payne-Gillam Museum will open April 1 with the first exhibit featuring Bag and Baggage, travel accessories from 1900 to 1930. Rosemary Engalls of St. Louis, Michigan, will have her collection of antique beaded bags on display. Also to be seen are trunks, travel brochures and even the bags carried by Doctors of the era.

Magnolia Week at the Museum will be the last Sunday in April and the week following.

Three hundred and eighty five racks from a carpet store in Bay City have been donated to the museum. These are flip racks, 2 foot by 1½ foot, for displaying and preserving newspaper articles and pictures. Catherine Rumbaugh says Bob Walling has made some frames for use of these racks, but she would like a benefactor to donate \$500.00 to complete the necessary work. The Museum has come so far from the little brick home by the water tower. Wouldn't some one out there like to know they had helped to improve the Museum even more by contributing to this project?

Helen Kitchen, who has been a long standing typist for the museum, has now resigned. We wish to thank for all her efforts. She will be missed.

The Museum will be closed Easter Sunday.

CLINTON COUNTY GROWTH

With the 1990 census in the news it is interesting to note that in 1837, there were 529 citizens in Clinton County. 1850 showed a number of 5,102. An influx of people brought the 1880 census to 28,100. Now 1980 has indicated 55,893 residents. What will 1990 total figures show?

WILLIAM A. NORTON

1906 Representative from Clinton County

Mr. Norton was born at Farmington, Oakland county, Michigan, October 21, 1853. He is the son of Rev. William R. Norton. He received his early education in the district schools and later attended Hillsdale College and the Michigan Agricultural College. He was admitted to the bar in 1878, has held the office of circuit court commissioner, was twice elected prosecuting attorney of Charlevoix county and served two terms as prosecuting attorney of Clinton County. He is married and resides in St. Johns where he is actively engaged in his profession. Mr. Norton is a brilliant and convincing speaker and has done effective service for the Republican party in the campaigns of the past 20 years. He was elected to the legislature November 6, 1906 by a vote of 2,417 votes to 1,651 for Murrett Frink.

CONSOLIDATION POSSIBLE?

For the past several years, The Clinton County Historical Society has met on the third Thursday of every month. The Genealogists of Clinton County have met on the first Monday of each month. There was much discussion at the last Historical meeting of the Society that maybe the two groups should be combined. It has become increasingly difficult to provide interesting programs twice a month. This will be discussed again at the next meeting of the Society. Be sure and let your feelings be known.

Bill Serviss, our treasurer says membership cards can be picked up by members at the regular meetings. He would like a self addressed stamped envelope sent if you would like the membership card mailed back. His address is 13121 Tucker Drive, DeWitt, Michigan, 48820.

NOTES FROM THE JUNE 22, 1911

CLINTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN

63 Young people graduated from the eighth grade. There were sixty-three young people that received their diplomas of promotion from the eighth grade of the schools of our city and surrounding districts Tuesday evening. Thirty of that number represented the districts of Bingham, Greenbush, Olive, Duplain, Riley and Bengal.

The program opened with the processional of Ole Foerch, followed by a duet by Blanch Keenoy and Edith Van Sickle and the 7th and 8th grade choruses sang a series of "Folk Songs" under the direction of Miss Hume, which were much enjoyed.

Superintendent C. E. Holmes, of the Blind School in Lansing, delivered the address, for his subject, "The Elements of Success." He said that the matter of promotion and graduation should not be taken as a matter of fact, for these were steps in the lives of our young people, that lead to higher and nobler things.

Orange A. Whitlock was born in Greenbush, December 25, 1847 and died February 5, 1910, aged 63 years.

There will be an ice cream social at Perry Teed's Friday evening, June 30. All are invited.

A marriage license has been granted to Archie R. Levy, Elsie and Ina Mapes, Pewamo.

The first women in Michigan to spin aloft in an aeroplane made their flights Monday at Detroit. They were Mrs. Russell A. Alger and Mrs. F. M. Alger. The former was up six minutes and the later five minutes. The machine was a Wright biplane and the flight was made under the auspices of the Michigan Aero club over the golf links of the Country Club.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Genealogists will meet April 2, 1990 at the Elsie Public Library at 7:30 pm.

The Clinton County Historical Society will meet April 19, 1990 at the Capitol Federal Savings and Loan Bank Building at 7:30 pm. Jane Swanchera will be the featured speaker for the evening.

The Genealogists will meet May 7, 1990 at the Capitol Federal Savings and Loan Bank Building with Burt Walling presenting the program on Veterans.

April 1, between 10 am and 5 pm, there will be a book fair at the Lansing Civic Center on Allegan. The Society will have a booth at this event to promote our publications. If you could help at the booth, call Bill Serviss. 669-3179.

We all wish Charlie Colletta a

speedy recovery from surgery at Ingham County Medical Hospital. 401 W. Greenlawn, Lansing, 48910.

ARLYNN GANTZ HONORED

Because of his generosity and helpfulness, Arlynn Gantz has been awarded a life time membership in the Clinton County Historical Society. Arlynn will be living in Florida near Disney World. We will miss his expertise.

WANTED AND NEEDED

We not only want new members but we desperately need new members. Our treasurer, Bill Serviss, says we have 178 paid memberships at this time. Try to recruit a friend to join our group.

Museum Hours, Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm.

Wednesday, 2 pm to 8 pm.

Archives Hours, Monday and Tuesday, 9 am to 4 pm.



Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174

Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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