

Clinton Independent

Vol. II No 4

St. Johns, Michigan

November 1958

GENEALOGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ATTEND CLARKSTON SEMINAR
BRING INFORMATION TO MEMBERS

Several of the Genealogy Committee members attended a seminar in Clarkston in September. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the participants of new techniques and new materials which are coming fort for family tree tracers. Many of the Committee members went to this meeting. The Board of Directors of the Society co-sponsored the attendance of Goldie Moore, Arlene Schrader and Wilma Sowle. For those of you who are interested in this interesting subject, these ladies and other committee members will help you with all the latest methods.

Genealogy committee meetings are the first Monday of each month at the Bement Library History Room at 7:30. (The History Room is in the basement of the Municipal Building. There is no charge to be a member of this group. The committee is a most active part of the Historical Society.

STRIPPER WANTED

Anyone who wants to rid woodwork of years of paint and help restore new Museum. No pay, hard work-FUN. Contact the Rumbaughs 224-7402.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Nov. 6 Genealogy Committee meets in the History Room at the Bement Library in St. Johns at 7:30
- Nov. 7 Museum Committee meets at the Old Museum on South Oakland Street.
- Nov. 16 Society November meeting at Municipal Building in St. Johns
- Nov. 20 Board of Directors meets at 7:30 in the old Museum.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS IN
ST. JOHNS NOVEMBER 16.
DEPRESSION ERA GLASS AND TIMES
TO BE ON THE PROGRAM

Remember the cereal boxes that contained those funny glasses and the blue pitchers with sail boats adorning them? How about the pink plates and cups you passed up at an auction a few years back when someone else bid a dollar and you didn't want to go any higher? Those memories are now money memories for many. Those same glasses selling for dollars a piece and that set of dishes for a great many dollars. The depression era glassware and the times of the glass will come to life on November 16 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Auditorium in St. Johns when Gordon and Virginia Willyoung bring their extensive private collection of the best of the Depression Era glassware to be found in the Mid-Michigan area.

Gordon Willyoung has served as the Vice-President of the Depression Glass Collectors Association and has been responsible for the Michigan shows at Ypsilanti each year. The Willyoungs have long been supporters of the Clinton Historical Society serving in many committee positions and doing extensive work at the Museum.

This program which will be part of the November meeting

NAMES

Clinton County, Clinton Township, the Clinton River, Clinton, Michigan, the Clinton Inn--all names of places in Michigan. Not even geographically near one another these places usually (as in the case of Clinton County) trace their name to DeWitt Clinton who advocated the building of the Erie canal, a United States Senator, Federalist candidate for President and Governor of New York.

G E N E A L O G Y

Arlene Ingalls Schrader

As a descendant of several pioneers of Michigan and Clinton County, I have recently become interested in tracing my "roots." Some of my descendants are Stevens, Craun, Fillmore, Howe, Nutting, Vedder, Marten and Ingalls. Here is a brief history of one of my grandfathers, John D. Ingalls.

John D. Ingalls migrated to Michigan, Ionia County, from Canada, and was listed in the 1850 census as living with his sister, Mrs. Lockwood Clark (Mary Jane). Their parents names were John C. Ingalls and Laura from New York state.

In 1856, John D. purchased land in Section 10, Watertown Township, Clinton County, and also took a wife. He married Delia Vedder, who was born in Medina, New York and came to Michigan in 1855. Three children were born to them, Charles S., Nellie (Mrs. G. A. Williams of DeWitt), and Minnie (Mrs. E. R. Grinold of Grand Ledge). John was a farmer.

In 1861, he enlisted in Company D, 5 Michigan Reg. and served in many skirmishes in the Civil War, and was discharged in 1865. He suffered injuries during the war and after his death in 1880, Delia was able to obtain a pension. She later married Andrew Chapman, also a Civil War veteran.

Charles Sebastian Ingalls, son of John D., continued to own the farm in Watertown and married Mable Howe. Three children were born: Herbert D., and Esther (one of twins, one dying in childbirth).

Herbert D., took up the family farm and married Mable Craun to whom five children were born: Don D., (killed in WWII), Charles, Duane, Arlene and Larry. Herbert D. was a farmer and water well driller. His sons have followed in his footsteps, and two are currently in business on the farm. The farm was designated as a centennial farm in 1956 and ~~twenty-years-later~~ is still in the family. Charles and Duane have homes on the original eighty-acre farm. Larry resides in Riley township. Arlene resides in Riley township on a farm, is married to Vernon Schrader.

Mrs. Mable Ingalls (Herbert) is an active member of the Historical Society and resides in Riley township.

One of the features of the CLINTON INDEPENDENT has been the Genealogy of Society members. This one, submitted by Arlene Schrader is an example of what can be done with a "mini-roots". We welcome your story. These can be sent to CLINTON INDEPENDENT, Box 174, St. Johns, Michigan or call 224-2025 after four.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS GINNY BURNS AND FORD CEASAR PUBLISH NEW BOOKS. HISTORY OF FORGOTTEN COMMUNITIES OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN AND WILLIAM BEAUMONT, FRONTIER DOCTOR.

Ginny Burns teaches fifth grade at Bath Elementary school in the most imaginable way possible. Her students love her and she loves them. She has given them a sense of history. It was this teacher that had her students write a history of Bath, Michigan for the Bicentennial. She has done a wonderful job. Now she has written of William Beaumont, the doctor whose exciting discoveries about the digestive system changed medical thinking in the early 1800's. She has written about this exciting man because of course he has great importance in the history of Michigan. This is a children's biography. Who knows about what kids like? Ginny Burns does. Here is an order blank so you can enjoy this book.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

SEND \$8.50 to: Enterprise Press
P.O. Box 108
Bath, Michigan 48808.

* * * * *

Ford Ceasar is one of our most illustrious members. Ford has been our vice-president and helped guide many of formulating policies. He has always reminded us that Clinton county has a long and important history of which we could be very proud. He is an author of several books on history of the central Michigan area and several other remembrances. He was commissioned by the Ingham County Historical Commission to write the official history of Ingham County for the Bicentennial. Now Ford has written an interesting history of Forgotten communities in this area including those in Clinton County.

Ford S. Ceasar
3116 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Re: book,
Forgotten Communities of Central Michigan

Mr. Ceasar,

Please send me _____ copy, or copies at \$5.00 each, postpaid. My check or money order for \$_____ is enclosed.

My name is _____

My address is _____

City or town _____ Zip _____

Other instructions _____

GERMAN DISPLAY BEING
READYED BY MUSEUM GROUP

An ethnic display depicting German culture is being planned for the Clinton County Museum.

Old pictures, books, articles of interest including farm implements, German language newspapers, books, letters, patents land deeds, coins, old bibles, especially those belonging to German families still here.

If you have anything which you would like to loan for display please contact Nina Waldron in Fowler at 593-2109.

TYPIST WANTED

A person who would like to do typing for the newsletter and for other projects for the Society is needed. You must have a typewriter. Call Betty Moore at 224-2025.

YOUR SUPPORT--AND THAT OF YOUR
NEIGHBORS IS NEEDED FOR MUSEUM

Those lights you see on at the Museum building are due to the untiring work of Catherine and John Rumbaugh and the many volunteers who have been working so hard at the new Museum. Your help is also needed. Help is needed for all types of work. No matter how little time you can give it will be appreciated. Call 224-7402. There will be a job for you.

Another kind of help is needed and that is financial. Be a Friend of the Museum and be listed among the permanent list of these friends and you will also be truly helping a county wide project. We need lots of money. Join now.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER _____ ZIP _____

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 50.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | 10.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | 5.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |

ST. JOHNS BICYCLE BAND TO BE SEEN
IN HUDSON'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

In the Homecoming parade last year the Historical Society sponsored a bicycle band which bears the name of the St. Johns Bicycle Band taken from the band of the same name from the late 1800's. Now this group will be in the Thanksgiving Day parade.

Ron Higgins, who is from St. Johns and now lives in Royal Oak, began the band as a Bicentennial project. He adopted the name St. Johns Michigan bicycle Band to retain the feeling for the exciting original group. His inspiration had been an article about the original group which he read in the Clinton Republican.

Look for this group on TV--the Society sponsored them back when...

JAIL PROPOSAL ON NOVEMBER BALLOT.

Clinton County residents have been asked in the November election to authorize the county to issue bonds to build a new jail and law enforcement center. The Board of Directors supports the Clinton County Board of Commissioners in the effort as they have supported us in our efforts.

WE GET LETTERS

Many letters come to this desk. Some we refer to others in the Society and some I tuck in as fillers--- here are a few questions of interest.

Does anyone remember Ethel North Ego who was the first wife of Harvey Ego. She was a teacher here in the early 1900's, marrying Harvey Ego and dying in childbirth. Denise Wiswell is the granddaughter of this woman and she wants to contact someone who might have known her grandmother and who might even have a picture of her from when she was a teacher. This would make her very happy. Denise lives at 203 E. Wright Street, Shepherd, MI 48883 and says you may call her collect at 823-6036.

THE PAINE-GILLAM-SCOTT 1860 HOUSE
CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The stately new home of the Clinton County Historical Museum at 106 Maple Street holds the distinction of being the oldest brick residence in the City of St. Johns.

In 1858 John W. Paine, a native of New York State, came to St. Johns from Rochester Colony where he had been a merchant in partnership with Charles Kipp since 1852. Kipp moved to St. Johns in 1856 and opened a hardware store. Paine followed in 1858, opening a general store the same year.

On October 27, 1858 Paine bought Lots 3 and 4 of Block 13 facing Maple Street from Alva Walker, one of the original land holders in St. Johns. On this site in 1860 Paine built his imposing brick home. The same year he also built the first brick store in St. Johns located on the southeast corner of Clinton and Higham.

John Paine's home was built in the Italiannate style, in a straight-back townhouse design. The main brick portion of the house consisted of an entrance hall in the northeast corner which contained an open staircase. The front parlor off of this hall was connected to a living room in the middle of the house. In the rear of this section was a dining room and study or possibly master bedroom. The second floor contained approximately four bedrooms. A two story frame addition to the rear was added a short time after the completion of the main portion. This contained a large kitchen with pantries and a servants room or nursery on the second floor.

At the time when this house was built facing the Courthouse Square, it would have been quite a different setting than today's. The Courthouse was not to be built for ten more years and all that stood on the square in 1860 was a small county office building.

Considering its surroundings, Paine's new house would have been considered an impressive structure in the six-year-old village, when only two years earlier it is recorded that a wild bear was shot across the street on the square.

On September 26, 1870, John Paine died at the early age of 49. His widow, Harriet, was given possession of the house, property near the railroad tracks, and a large plat of land on the eastern edge of the village.

She and the six children, most of whom were still youngsters remained in the house until about 1875. In March of 1876 the house was sold at public auction from the Courthouse steps to Edward Brown, a prominent land owner of Bengal Township. Edward and Ella (Conn) Brown had the home for four years, selling it in 1880 to Charles and Palmyra Wickes, who resold the house in 1883 to Dr. Samuel Gillam and his wife, Rose. Dr. Gillam, a graduate of the University of Michigan, came to St. Johns in 1879. The Gillams owned the house until 1913. It is presumed that it was during this period that the house was extensively remodeled and the small office to the north constructed.

In 1904 Dr. Gillam was joined in practice by Dr. Walter Scott. Early the following year, Rose Gillam died, and when Dr. Gillam died in 1913, Dr. Scott acquired the house and office which he maintained until his death in 1935.

Throughout its one-hundred and eighteen year history the house has undergone some major alterations and additions. Overall, the windows are the major alterations to the exterior. The lintels over the window openings have all been removed and the window sashes in the brick portion have been replaced. The windows probably had exterior shutters although no traces of shutter hinges can be found on any of the window frames. Porch steps and walkways have been replaced with poured cement. At the roofline the house retains its original frieze with decorative corbel brackets. The front of the house offers a splendid doorway with transom and side lights but remains hidden behind a 20th Century porch. The large picture window on the ground floor, with its beveled glass, is an addition from the 1890's when the space between two standard sized windows was removed to make one large window which distracts from the symmetry of the house. The protruding chimney on the south side of the house is also an addition from the 1890's. The north side of the house retains an appropriate, if not original porch. The east window on the ground floor was made smaller when the interior staircase was rebuilt and an ornate leaded glass window was installed.

On the second floor towards the rear, above the porch, the double windows and protruding brickwork suggest either a different styled porch roof or that a balcony once adorned the porch. The large kitchen wing on the back of the house also retains its original frieze and corbel brackets. The multi-paned window sashes on the second floor appear to be original. A doorway on the south side of this addition has recently been removed and sided over. The one-story addition to the kitchen wing is old, but was probably built in the late 1800's.

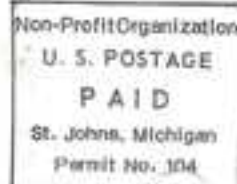
The first floor interior was extensively remodeled in the 1890's. The stairwell was totally rebuilt and the woodwork throughout the main house was replaced with ornately carved oak. The living room received a new fireplace with ornate mantle, and a window seat on the opposite end of the room. The kitchen retains woodwork and cupboards from the 1800's.

The floor plan of the second floor was changed either in the 1890's or later adding a central hall which leads to the rear of the house. It has not yet been determined which partitions are original or recent additions. Some of the rooms retain plain woodwork of pine which is possibly original.

Prepared by Ken Coin

Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879



*Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Waldron
11056 Second St.
Fowler, Mich 48735*