

Clinton Independent

Vol. 111 No. 11

St. Johns, Michigan

December, 1979

Society members will gather at museum for Christmas program

When Hila Bross looks back over the year of 1979 she picks the opening of the Paine-Gillam-Scott 1860 House Museum as the single most important accomplishment of the Clinton County Historical Society. It is here that members will meet for the last meeting of 1979 to share some Christmas spirit among the Victorian decorations and collections from the past.

Thursday, Dec. 20, members are invited to a special showing at 7:30 p.m. The program will include a tour of the museum which is splendid in its Christmas finery. Virginia Will-young's collection of old toys; Watertown Township's special display; a cedar Christmas tree with handmade trimmings; a reproduction Victorian doll house; Christmas postcards from the turn of the century; Chinese brass and pressed and ruby flashed glass, all make the 1860 house a beautiful place to contemplate and remember Christmas. Everyone will bring a small plate of cookies to share for refreshments.

Director Catherine Rumbaugh wants to remind all society members that Wednesday evenings now through Jan. 6 will be a nice time to bring guests to view the museum. Musical programs have been planned for Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. when the Christmas decorations can be viewed by candlelight.

Museum hours for the winter are Wednesdays from 2 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon until 4 p.m. There are no holiday or Friday hours.

More coming on early transportation

The January and February meetings will both be held at the Capitol Savings and Loan Community Room, downtown St. Johns.

Both meetings will feature programs that follow the transportation theme. Alden Livingston is in charge of the January program which will stress the railroads in Clinton County. Alta Reed will take over the program for February on the Inter-urban. Mrs. Bross said these program chairmen welcome help on the two topics. Anyone who would like to assist with information or remembrances should contact them.

Van Cowen of South Oakland Street, St. Johns recently found an old railroad directory in his attic. It lists Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio lines and contains hotels along the route. It also includes a schedule for the Inter-urban. The book will be shared at the January meeting.

History book publicized

Betty Moore and Hila Bross of the 1980 History Book Committee have been keeping busy with publicity for the publication. On November 21 they spent an hour on WRBJ radio talking about the book and encouraging people to write their family, church and business histories. On November 30 they were interviewed by WJIM-TV and on December 29 they will be interviewed by Channel 10.

Mrs. Bross said that the committee has had pretty good luck on family histories but they want to be sure to get businesses, churches and organizations. Businesses can also buy ads in the publication and John Kennedy has agreed to help solicit advertising.

"The idea of an ad is to help the book financially," Mrs. Bross said, "but more importantly the ads themselves will become history. One hundred years from now people will look at these ads and know what we were about today," she said.

Genealogists report

The Genealogists meet the first Monday of the month in the basement of the Benent Library in St. Johns (next to the police station). These meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and the public is more than welcome to attend.

Remember too...the genealogists have someone on duty the last Sunday of every month in the "genealogy room" at the Paine-Gillam-Scott museum.

Need help? If you have an announcement or would like your query in the "Clinton Independent", write to: Arlynn G. Gantz, P.O. Box 535, DeWitt, MI 48820. There is no charge.

Query: Desire information regarding JAMES MURRAY, JR., born 1850 in Kentucky. Married to ELIZABETH SIMMON on 11 July 1875 in Clinton County, Michigan. Also, does anyone know of a bible or other family record concerning this family?

Thank you: ANN COVERSTONE DAVIS, 12045 - 30th Avenue S.W., Seattle, Washington 98146

Query: Does anyone know anything about GEORGE WASHINGTON THOMAS and wife, ELIZA HELT THOMAS who lived about five miles north of St. Johns better than a hundred years ago? They had a son, FREDERICK ARTHUR THOMAS born in 1871.

Thank you: Mrs. BEN E. LOHMAN, 610 East Elm Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161.

On the next page continues the listing of tombstone readings for the first 20 years of burials in Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns. There will be more again next month.

In October's listing under 1859, the name LEACH, NANCY L., wife of JAMES E. was left out. She died June 26, age 30 years.

When we finish with the listing the genealogists committee has promised to reveal just where they discovered these early records. The list started in 1854.

inued list of early tombstone readings of the first 20 years of burials in Mt. Rest Cemetery

1867

GREEN, HEEMAN D. son of B.F. & R. Green Died Oct 24, age 6 months
 GORAUCH, ANN M. wife of D.H. Gorauch Died Apr 24, age 39 years.
 BALDWIN, SARAH MARIN wife of E.H. Baldwin Died Feb 17, age 36 years.
 HUNT, IDA L. daughter of S. & A. Hunt Died Dec 6, age 2 years.
 WAGNER, MARY E. Died April 5, age 8 years.
 LEONARD, GIDEON Died Sept 18, age 54 years.
 WHITE, GEORGE G. Died Feb. 3, age 7 months.
 WALTON, ELNURAH daughter of R. & G.M. Walton Died Aug 13, age 1 year.
 JOSHEN, O.C. son of O.C. & Jenette Joshen Died Mar 22, age 5 years
 DAVIS, EDDIE son of S.C. & M.L. Davis Died Nov 3, age 2 years.
 SILABEE, A.E. Died June 1, age 55 years.
 CONN, EDDIE son of B. P. & H. E. Conn Died Oct 8, age 2 years.
 GABRION, ALBERT Died Mar 9, age 18 years.
 THOMPSON, CORA M. daughter of J. & M.E. Thompson Died Mar 16, age 2 years.
 NICHOLS, HATTIE P. infant daughter of L. R. & S. M. Nichols Died Sept 1.
 COLLEY, WILLIE R. son of E. & R.P. Cooley Died Aug 21, age 6 months.
 SPAULDING, ARCHIE son of O. L. & M.C. Spaulding Died Oct 3, age 6 weeks.
 PLUMSTEAD, HARRIE infant son of R. & H.B. Plumstead Died Nov 24, age 3 months.
 LUCAS, JOHN B. Died Aug 2, age 50 years.
 WILLIAMS, ERVIE son of C.S. & M.J. Williams Died Mar 12, age 3 years.

1868

CAULLET, CHARLES Died Aug 9, age 54 days.
 RICHARDSON, WILLIAM D. Died Mar 21, age 34 years.
 DUNN, ANNETTIE L. daughter of H. & M. Dunn Died Jan 24, age 2 years.
 BLASS, BENJAMIN M. Died May 29, age 22 years.
 DAVISON, LAVINIA S. wife of Edwin Davison Died April 1, age 39 years.
 WADE, MARTHA E. wife of M. Wade Died Jan 22, age 28 years.

1869

SEIFERT, SARAH L. Died Sept 4, age 4 years.
 MAY, MARY wife of Joab May Died Jan 7, age 62 years.
 LAZELLE, LUCY E. wife of William S. Lazelle Died Dec 10, age 53 years.

More 1869 deaths will continue next month.

A message from your president

What we are doing today is history tomorrow so be sure to make some happy history this Christmastime. Society members will meet Thursday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Paine-Gillam-Scott museum to share Christmas spirit and end the year together. We will roam around the museum and enjoy a very special Christmas.

As we look back over the year at our accomplishments what certainly stands out above all is the opening of the museum. Much appreciation goes to the Rumbaugh and Wallings and all who helped pu' their shoulder to the wheel.

Certainly the home tour was another successful venture as well as the historic markers that went up at Capitol Savings and Loan to mark the Steel Hotel and out at the Capital City Airport to honor Philip Parmelee.

The informal times of our summer meetings when we all enjoyed the fellowship of picnics together will also be remembered. We have started a series of programs on transportation and are looking forward to many other interesting ones during 1980. Also to look forward to during this new year will be the publishing of the new history of Clinton County. The Genealogists are hard at work on a cemetery listing and have accomplished many other projects as have other active committees of the society.

A hearty wish to everybody for a happy holiday and the best of everything for the new year.

Sincerely, *Hila Bross*

Clinton County Historical Society

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