

CLINTON INDEPENDENT

VOL. III NO. 2

ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN

FEBRUARY, 1979

HISTORICAL SITES CHAIRPERSON
BUSY IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING
COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

ABC'S OF DEPRESSION TIME
AND GLASSWARE PRESENTATION
HIGHLIGHT FEBRUARY MEETING

Shirley Karber had just accepted chairmanship of the Historical Sites Committee when she was put right to work on a project. It was suggested that perhaps a marker ought to be placed to commemorate the site of the Steel Hotel. Shirley began work on that idea immediately.

Bill Patton, Manager of Capitol Savings and Loan was approached with the idea, and he was enthusiastic. A Tri-County Marker will be placed in the lobby of the new Capitol Savings and Loan Building which will be soon completed on the site of the Hotel which burned in 1976. The marker will be sponsored by the banking concern and will be dedicated at the time of the Grand opening celebration. This will precede our March 15 meeting and will be held at 7:00p.m. The meeting will follow at 8:00 in the new Community Room of the Bank.

Shirley is working on a brochure telling of the history of the Steel family and the hotel which bears its name.

A special guest at the dedication will be Robert Waldon, grandson of R.M. Steel and former Republican speaker of the House of the Michigan Legislature. Save March 15 for this dedication and meeting.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

We are in need of a new editor for the newsletter. Ever since we've been a Society this newsletter has kept us together and has informed us of our mutual interests in the important meetings and events which we have had.

It is no longer possible for me to continue in this capacity

am sure that someone out there has the time and the new ideas which are needed. PLEASE contact Hila Bross or Catherine Reed and talk to them about the project.

"Alphabet Soup" was what some called the New Deal. And with FGA, CCC, TVA, and NRA among others, it was no wonder that this was the thinking. Fireside chats, marathon dancing Father Coughlin, and Shirley Temple are name which bring back memories like a Glenn Miller rendition. Whether you were eating kidney beans three times a day, buying your bread with script or standing in line to see "Gone With the Wind", the 30's means different things to each of us.

But even in a depression, great beauty can be found. One of these tangible items of beauty from the time is the piece of glassware loosely called "Depression Glass". Since there is much to be learned about what's good, bad or ugly, the subject of the February meeting will be Depression Glassware.

Gordon and Virginia Willyoung will present their program February 15 at 8:00p.m. in the Municipal Building Auditorium in St. Johns. (In case of severe weather listen to WRBJ and the Lansing stations for news of a cancellation). The Willyoungs have had to cancel before, but all looks well for this meeting.

The Board of Directors thought that since this meeting will mark our fifth birthday, it would be appropriate to "dress up" in the style of the 30's. Wear what might have been worn during the Depression Era. Dress up, bring a friends and have a good time at our birthday party.

There is a publication being circulated at this time called Michigan Historic Chronicles. It is in no way connected with the Clinton County Historical Society.

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR 1979

Included on this page is a membership coupon. It's time to sign up for 1979. Actually our \$2.00 membership fee has been the same for all five years. With inflated prices all about us, this annual dues is truly a bargain. Included in your coupon is a space for "Friend of the Museum". This Friends donation will enable the work of the Museum to be carried on. Right now our expenses for the Museum are high so your contribution is really needed.

FIVE YEARS OF GATHERING CLINTON COUNTY HISTORY---IT'S BEEN A GREAT HALF DECADE

Five years ago notices in the Clinton County News called for interested persons to meet to form a Historical Society. That cold night in February brought over thirty persons together. From that nucleus the Clinton County Historical Society was formed.

We have accomplished much over the short time we have been in existence. Our Paine-Giliam-Scott Museum will be ready in the spring for public viewing. Our Museum House on Oakland was a success with thousands of children and adults seeing our collection of Clinton County memorabilia. (continued)

NEW HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED IN 1980

A new history of Clinton County will be published in 1980. It will be a 600 page indexed book which will include an overview history of the county and townships, and which will also have a section of family histories. A guide to the writing of these histories will be published later this spring.

Our book reprint sold out 500 copies and a new book with entirely new material will be published in 1980. Our other publications include a Tour Book, maps and postcards and calendar.

Our genealogy committee has helped numerous persons find their family roots. In addition to these projects they are working with state genealogy groups to update cemetery records, compiling a sire name index and contributing information gathered by this group to permanent records in state libraries.

Many historic sites have been marked with the 1876 signs and with the Tri-County markers.

Truly we have made history by bringing the history of Clinton County to the attention of the public.

We're sure that you are proud to be a member of such a group. (There is a 1979 membership coupon on this page--Be a member now).

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

| | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Membership in Clinton County Historical Society | \$2.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Friends of the Museum | \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | More | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Send Coupon to Clinton County Historical Society
Box 174
St. Johns, Michigan

We're IN! --- one building that is. The large pieces of furniture and display cases were moved Wednesday, January 17th, on one of our unexpected storm days.

Previous to the final moving, we were spending four and five day weeks on inventory and cataloging. Also preparing storage rooms to contain the Museum collection. An office-cataloging room are functioning now and some semblance of order has been achieved.

Hours and hours are being spent on knees preparing the parlor, living room and small library floors for finish. The beautiful parquet borders and floors are receiving oohs and aahs.

The floors have taken much, much longer than had been estimated--- the biggest problem was removing the glued-down rubber backed carpet. Hopefully, progress will be more visible when painting begins.

We've set our sights on a Michigan Week opening in May. However, don't expect everything completed, as we are postponing the kitchen until fall (we hope of '79) plus some other areas.

The Paine-Gillam-Scott House is going to be a beautiful home for our Historical Society Museum, and one families will be proud to contribute to financially and with gifts.

The house concept of our Museum is in need of fine, lovely pieces of early or late Victorian furniture (1860-1900). What better way to honor an early Clinton County ancestor than to donate a piece of furniture in their name, possibly even a piece of furniture they owned. If you, or someone you know, are interested, please contact us.

What is exciting about house museums, is when articles original to the families of the home are returned. We'd appreciate learning of their whereabouts. Remember an appraised gift is tax deductible, as well as money.

Here's a list of a few things to check your attic for. We've been given an "attic gift" of five brass two-light ceiling fixtures. However, to make them complete, we need globes in matched pairs. Can you help us out?

We're also interested in acquiring small oak molding, the kind used around a room, particularly a dining room, separating a floral and striped wall-paper. Plate rails for a dining room would be so welcomed. One window is missing a side of oak trim. For our new drapery valances, we'd like to find some of the old, oak decorative window rods. Plus a nine foot oak pole for an archway rod.

We'd like to acquire about thirty folding chairs. We'd appreciate a lead. Some welcomed donations of office furniture, files, typewriter and duplicator are being put to good use plus a lot of shelving and display material.

MUSEUM INFORMATION CONTINUED---

PAINE-GILLIAM-SCOTT 1860 HOUSE

A record is being kept of the many persons and many many hours that have gotten us to where we are and we are most thankful for these volunteers and their dedication.

However, (always a however) our winter has made it necessary for many to hibernate and it certainly hasn't made it very enticing to volunteer. But, please keep us in mind. The IDEAL museum volunteer would be one to say, "I'll give you two days a week" or "...one day a week." or "...one day every two weeks" or "...one day a month." A definite commitment we can plan on and you can too. The jobs are so varied there has to be one you'd like to do.

Many have said this task was impossible---but using a couple of periods, one has a new perspective I.M. Possible.

We believe it is!

John and Catherine Rumbaugh
Co-Directors

Robert and Lee Collins
Assistants

COMING EVENTS

- FEB. 12 MUSEUM COMMITTEE meetings. Second Monday of the month. Committee meets at 7:30 in the Paine-Gilliam-Scott Museum House.
- FEB. 15 Our DEPRESSION NIGHT meeting. Dress up (or down) in what might have been worn during the Depression. Meeting at 8:00p.m. in the St. Johns Municipal Building Auditorium. Bring a Friend.
- FEB. 19 Board of Directors meeting at Paine-Gilliam-Scott House Museum. 7:30. Bring chairs. Society members welcome.
- FEB. 26 All persons who are interested in working on the newsletter as a writer, editor, typist, envelope stuffer, or envelope addressor. (Some of these positions are now filled by eager hard working people. We encourage them to come now and get the latest envelope lists, etc.) Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Paine-Gilliam-Scott Museum. Bring Chairs.
- March 5 GENEALOGY COMMITTEE meets at the History Room of Besant Public Library at 7:30 p.m. EVERYONE INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY OR IS WORKING ON A GENEALOGY project is invited.
- March 12 MUSEUM COMMITTEE meets at 7:30 in Paine-Gilliam-Scott House. Bring chairs.
- March 15 CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets at 8:00 in the new Community Room of Capitol Savings and Loan Building.
- March 15 DEDICATION at 7:00p.m. of the Tri-County Barker honoring the Steel Hotel. In new Capitol Savings and Loan Building.