

# Clinton Independent

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## Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum to open

The anxiously awaited opening of the Paine-Gillam-Scott 1860 House is at hand. Society members and special guests will meet at noon Sunday, May 20 to officially open the new museum at 106 Maple Street on the Court House Square, St. Johns.

Congressman Don Albosta and local officials will attend. The Clinton County Historical Commission will present a resolution.

The historic home has been restored to its 1890 remodeling with more than 2,000 hours of volunteer labor. Directors John and Catherine Rumbaugh and assistants Robert and Lee Walling have led the volunteer crew.

Restoration, though not yet finished, has turned the old red building, discarded by the Mid-Michigan Health Department, into a new monument for Clinton County.

The noon opening will extend to 4 p.m. the first day. Other hours will continue through Michigan Week, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day extending until 8 p.m. on Friday.

Demonstrations in pioneer crafts and lore are spotted through the week as people are invited to come and visit.

### COME SEE:

- Chair Caning - Fred Barton will demonstrate Monday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Spinning - Mary Ruppahn will spin at the Museum Tuesday from 10 - 3 p.m.
- Quilting - The St. Johns Quilting Club with Kathy Martindale and Maria Giesecke, Wednesday a.m. and maybe p.m.
- Candles - Thursday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dipped the pioneer way.
- Natural Dyeing - Marianne Barrone and children will dye homespun yarn with onion skin and lily-of-the-valley from 12:30 - 4 p.m. on Friday.
- Carving - Tom Penrod will demonstrate Friday 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

It would be nice to arrange periodic demonstrations on pioneer crafts at the Museum. Does anyone have any ideas? What would you like to see? What could you show yourself? Who knows how to make apple-head dolls? Corn-husk dolls? Soap? Call Catherine Rumbaugh or Sharon Randall.

## Chaffee at dedication

Donald L. Chaffee, father of space pioneer Roger Chaffee, will present a historical marker honoring Philip Parmelee, aeronautical pioneer at Capital City Airport May 19. Chaffee will help dedicate the Parmelee marker at the noon kick-off activity for a two-day Air Show in Lansing. Like Parmelee, Chaffee's son was a fatality of the work they both loved. Roger Chaffee was one of three astronauts killed in a flash fire aboard a test flight of Appollo I at Cape Kennedy, 1967.

The Parmelee marker is a beautiful two sided bronze plaque that incorporates photographs as part of the text. An official State of Michigan historical information marker, it is sponsored by the Clinton Co. Historical Commission. Freeman McClintock Lansing (who was present the day Parmelee crashed in Calif.) donated funds to help pay for the marker.

The Air Show celebration is free and will continue all afternoon and again Sunday with parachute jumping, flight acrobatics and ground displays of experimental homemade aircraft.

Shirley Karber, who researched Parmelee's career and helped obtain a Tri-County marker for his grave site at East Plains Cemetery is program chairman.

## Oral History program for annual meeting

Clinton County Historical Society members and guests will learn first hand what the Oral History Committee is all about at the annual meeting, Thursday, May 17 at the Capitol Savings and Loan public room at 8 p.m.

Committee Chairman, Libby Spoelma said members of her group will be interviewing outgoing president Alta Reed and in-coming president Bill Brock as a demonstration of how they are trying to preserve parts of our history on tape.

"We want to catch the sounds of today and save them for those who'll come behind us," she said. "We hope our demonstration will show other members how important this committee is to the preservation of Clinton County history," Mrs. Spoelma explained. The Committee is looking for new members to help them in this big job.

People in the audience will also be interviewed during the demonstration.

May 18 annual meeting time and new officers will be installed as Alta Reed and her officers step down. Annual reports will be given.

The Board of Directors will get together before this meeting at 7 p.m. instead of for the regular third Monday night meeting. They will meet at the public room of the Savings and Loan.

## Calendar

May 11, 12, 13, Home, Sport and Auto Show at Smith Hall. Historical Society will have a booth here with books, cards, memberships.

May 17, Clinton County Historical Society Annual Meeting. Officers will be installed. Annual Reports made. The Board of Directors will meet for a short time before at 7 p.m. Capitol Savings and Loan - 8 p.m.

May 18, International Museum Day. Observe it by calling John or Catherine Rumbaugh and asking what you can do to help them at the museum. Guides, demonstrations, typists, dusters, etc., will be needed to finish and maintain the Paine-Cillam-Scott House.

May 19, Parmelee marker to be dedicated at Capital City Regional Airport, Lansing at noon. Free Air Show follows.

## Old cemetery at Alwaro

In Section 20 of Olive Township a small and unique cemetery can be found. Now known as the Alward Lake Cemetery it was original part of the Nathan Smith farm and called the Smith Cemetery. The land for it was given about 1750 when a scabber of the Smith family died. The site straddled DeWitt Road with side used for Indian burials and the other whites and Catholics (the Smith family faith). Markers were wooded and soon gone but the cemetery was filled. There were no lots plotted out, so burials were made where ever a family chose.

In 1902 an association was formed to care for the cemetery; the women held quilting parties and sold quilts for funds. The Ladies group disbanded in 1946 and later the town started to care for cemeteries.

At present this cemetery is about a one one side of the road and has 23 stones left.

The next Genealogy Branch meeting is June 4 at the St. Johns Library History Room at 7:30 p.m.

### Queries

Does anyone remember a Charles Carter who migrated to Clinton Co. and lived around Ellettsville? He died, Nov. 4, 1868. He had a son, Richard Carter. Contact Goldie Moore, 3623 W. Chadwick Rd., DeWitt. Ph. 669-9061

Information is wanted on Moses D. and Sally Tabor and Calista Jane Parker who might have been a sister of Sally Tabor. Calista's husband's name might have been Algernon. She lived in North Riley, 1872. Another sister might be Polly Bancroft Ganfield Bridgman, a brother, "Uncle Deak" Bancroft who later moved somewhere west of Lansing. Contact: Arlene Schrader, 5640 W. Chadwick Rd., DeWitt 669-3219.

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Wanted: any records of South Riley Cemetery on S. Lowell Rd., Riley Township. plot maps have been lost. Was there ever a cemetery assn. that might have records? Contact Arlene Schrader: 669-3219.