

## In sympathy

The Clinton County Historical Society regrets the passing of Dr. H. Manning Bross, husband of President Hila Bross, in September. Dr. Bross, with his wife, was one of the first members of the Society when it started in 1975. Many of us will miss his presence at our meetings as will Hila miss her companion of 43 years. While she vows that she will keep busy, let us all be aware of Hila's loss and try to fill in whenever we can.

# Clinton Independent

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## Stage coach routes are Oct. program

Continuing the theme of "Early Routes of Transportation", the program for the October meeting of the CCHS will center on Stage Coach Routes in Clinton County. To be presented Oct. 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregational Christian Church in Eureka, the program is being arranged by Mrs. Elizabeth Cowles and Mrs. Erma Robinson. Mrs. Cowles formerly worked at the State museum in Lansing and Mrs. Robinson was a long time post-mistress at Eureka. They both live in the Eureka area.

Please note that the meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. which is a little earlier than former meetings. To get to Eureka, travel north on US-27 to Maple Rapids Rd., turn east and go about two miles into Eureka. Just beyond the four corners on the north side of the road is the Congregational Christian Church.

### Bring your pictures

At the October meeting, Jean Martin and Betty Minsky will have equipment necessary to copy photographs for the 1980 book. You may bring your precious pictures in and take them home the same evening. The committee asks that you have identification ready to leave with them, writing groups from left to right, front row to back.

### Edwina takes over

Edwina Wakefield is the new corresponding secretary for the CCHS, according to president Hila Bross.

Mrs. Wakefield will replace Peg Lehnen who recently resigned. Peg served in this spot for more than a year and society members appreciate her help.

### Home Tour thank you

A big thank you from all the members of the Society to the wonderful couples and families who opened their homes for the 1979 Home Tour last month.

In a beautiful talk at the home owners' dinner the day after, President Hila Bross compared them with an ancient king who would put down his drawbridge across the moat and welcome the townspeople into the castle for a big feast and celebration. This was done only when the king felt at peace with himself and the world, Hila said.

Certainly the nine families who opened their homes for this very special tour, felt at peace with themselves and our community and the world.

Thank you one and all from every Society member. Special thanks also to Henrietta Teare who not only opened her home but chaired the entire tour, spending many long hours this summer in its planning. The same goes to Jeanne Temple who did the same at the Colony for that part of the tour, helping Henrietta with plans and doing much of the actual physical work.

Millie Brown, treasurer said over 900 tickets were sold. All expenses are not in yet but there will be a final report on profit at the Oct. 18 meeting.

## News from the genealogists

The Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society will meet at the home of John and Evangeline Caudy, 208 Wight Street, St. Johns, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. This will be their regular monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome.

The Genealogists deplore such acts as the recent ruthless destruction that took place in the Beach (also called Jones) Cemetery in Essex Township.

Reports tell us that there were stones tipped over and some broken off, destroying valuable genealogical data. This committee encourages all adults to instill a respect for graveyards into the minds of their children and young adults. This destruction goes beyond the boundaries of a mere prank.

QUERY - Need data on Henry C. ALWARD, who appears on the 1850 Olive Township census. He died in 1884 and is buried in the Alward Cemetery north of DeWitt. Was he any relation to ROBERT ALWARD, who was my great-grandfather?

Thank you; Miss Dorothy E. Alward,  
7057 Goldenrod N.E., Rockford, MI 49341

## Libby Spolema at conference

Libby Spolema, chairman of the Oral History committee is attending the National Oral History Conference at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University this month as a representative of the Clinton County Historical Society.

QUERY - Need information regarding the CONRAD and JOSEPH SEYMOUR families who appear on the 1869 Westphalia Township census. Was there a connection between them and my AMANDA (DIETZ) SEYMOUR BABOOCK? Also any DIETZ families who lived early in Dallas Township.

Thank you; Alex Seymour, 809 Circle Drive,  
Jacksonville, Texas 75766.

## Discovery

The Genealogists have recently made a great discovery, locating a tombstone reading of the first twenty years of burials in Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns. They will start listing them here in the newsletter on the opposite page, in the order in which they were found. This list will be continued again next month.

## Histories due

Betty Moore reminds Society members that histories are soon due for the 1980 Book. The committee is interested in receiving as many families, businesses, schools, and churches as possible to include in the book.

"We will not solicit family histories," she said, indicating that every family who now lives in Clinton County should make arrangements to be included. "It will be a shame when grandchildren and great-grandchildren look in the book and find no mention of their family because today's relatives didn't make the effort to be included," she said.

There is no charge to have your family history printed. Society members should remind friends and neighbors to submit theirs to the 1980 committee.



Early tombstone readings of the first 20 years of burials in the St. Johns, Mi. Cemetery.

1854

SHULTERS, JANE wife of Peter Shulters Died May 12, age 44 yrs.

1855

CONN, GEORGE W. son of B.P. & H.E. Conn Died Sept 17, age 5 yrs.

WAIT, BERINTHA wife of Isaac Wait Died Mar 24, age 32 yrs.

1856

MARQUADT, CHRISTIAN Died June 9, age 21 yrs.

1857

HURD, MARY ANN Died July 8, age 3 yrs.

PINGEL, SARAH daughter of J.F. & Dora M. Pingel Died Mar 10, age 7 mos.

MCKinney, JOSEPH son of S. & E. McKinney Died July 17, age 20 yrs.

TURNER, CHARLES Died May 20, age 28 yrs.

GIBBS, ELALIA daughter of S.W. & Clarinda Gibbs Died Sept 18, age 1 yr.

DAVIDSON, HENRY son of Edwin & Lavina Davidson Died Feb 20, age 3 yrs.

1858

PINGEL, FREDERICK son of J.F. & Dorna M. Pingel Died Nov 15, age 2 mos.

1859

FOOT, ANNA wife of Edwin Foot Died Mar 19, age 21 yrs.

HICKS, RANSALAER son of W.L. & Susan Hicks Died Mar 11, age 24 yrs.

STURGIS, MARY wife of David Sturgis Died July 13, age 64 yrs.

PAINE, NANCY wife of J.W. Paine Died Dec 6, age 37 yrs.

PAINE, CHARLES E. son of J.W. & N. Paine Died Nov 30, age 13 yrs

1860

LAMB, ELIZA J. daughter of G.E. & S. Lamb Died Feb 8, age 5 yrs.

TURNER, JAMES died Jan 21, age 19 yrs.

THAYER, POLLY wife of John B. Thayer Died June 30, age 56 yrs.

PATCH, CHARLOTTE, E. wife of Frederick H. Patch Died Nov 2, age 41 yrs.

ALLEN, HANNAH wife of Ethan Allen Died May 31, age 73 yrs.

LEACH, JAMES.E. Died Sept 1, age 34 yrs.

CRAWLEY, JOHN Died Oct 7, age 96 yrs.

CRAWLEY, Mary wife of John Crawley Died Oct 11, age 74 yrs.

WARREN, REUBEN F. Died Apr 30, age 84 yrs.

EATON, HAMILTON Died Apr 22, age 41 yrs.

...to be continued

## From your president

**A personal message** On the morning of Sept. 17, my husband, Manning Bross died at Clinton Memorial Hospital. He had not been well for several years, but during the summer he failed rapidly. However, he stayed sweet-natured and did not suffer pain. My thanks go to all the dear friends in C.C.H.S. who sent flowers and gave memorials to the Society, and to all of you who called and said and did kind things, both at the time of his passing and while he was ill. Friends are indeed a blessing at such a time.

Gratefully,

*Hila Bross*

**To all Tour workers** There are too many of you to list separately, but many thanks go to Henrietta Teare and her committees for all the work that went into this year's Home Tour. The planning and publicity, the arrangements and their execution were of highest quality. It was especially gratifying that so many people and groups in the community entered into the spirit of the occasion. Because of my husband's illness, I was unable personally to help very much, and I felt guilty about it. But I did not feel worried, because I knew everything was in competent hands.

Well done, thou good and faithful workers!

Hila

**To the home owners** Special thanks go to the Gieseckes, the Keenoys, the Cowans, the Teares, the Jopkes, the Simons, the Risleys, the Temples and Mrs. Ewer for opening their homes to the public, Sept. 15. We are also grateful to the Duplain Methodist Church and to those who opened the old Colony School and to those who arranged the display at the Duplain Church of Christ. Laurels go to the Rumbaugh's and the Wallings for having the Museum in such beautiful shape for the tour.

**Clinton County Historical Society**

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