

Clinton Independent

Vol. IV No. 1

St. Johns, Michigan

January, 1980

800 visit Paine-Gillam-Scott House during 1979 Christmas season

Christmas visitors to the Paine-Gillam-Scott House Museum totaled 800 by the final day of the holiday season, Sunday, Jan. 6. Decorations and exhibits were in keeping with the Victorian remodeling of the home.

Now visitors will find Riley Township in the township room; an exhibit of guns and swords in the upstairs display case and antique valentines in the front room. Catherine Rumbaugh reported that Arleen Schrader is in charge of the Riley Township exhibit and has arranged a display of wedding dresses dating back 25, 50, 75 and 100 years. The collection will remain through April. (DeWitt township is next.) The guns and swords are from the interesting collection of Bill Bennet's.

Scott and Judy Croisant's Victorian doll house will remain until the first part of February as will Martha Foust's Chinese Brass collection that is in the dining room.

The staff at the Alpena Museum has sent some lovely small items to us after hearing about our new museum at the recent conference in Lansing. An old school autograph album with dates back to 1885, a commencement exercise program from 1889 and a program announcing the rehearsal for "Ye Towne Singers" dated 1889, were included in the envelope from Alpena.

Three nice gifts were made to the museum from the Watertown Township exhibit. For our permanent collection are a lovely oil lamp, a ladder back chair that was made as a rocker and then remodeled for a chair and a very interesting old picture from World War I.

Speaking of gifts, have you noticed the \$1,000 donor plaque at the museum? It is stationed in the front hall. Made from a beautiful piece of walnut which was originally the top of an old pump organ, the plaque announces: The Paine-Gillam-Scott House Museum Gift, \$1,000 donors.

(Con't on page 2)

January 17th program to explore railroads

The January meeting has been set for the 17th at the Capitol Savings and Loan Community Room at 7:30 p.m. A panel discussion on the railroad in Clinton County will follow the general business meeting. Alden Livingston is in charge. David Lehnen and Bob Walling will be participating. The board is to meet after the program.

The February meeting (Feb. 21) will also be at the Capitol Savings and Loan at 7:30 p.m. Alta Reed and Ford Ceasar are working on a program on the Interurban which ran between Lansing and St. Johns.

more from museum

It will include the names of benefactors whose gifts of both cash or items totals \$1,000. At present it lists: 1976: J. Hubbard Snyder estate; 1977: Henry and Allie Sperkert estate; 1979, Burton Abstract and Title Co., Treva Merrill Smith, Manning and Hila Bross, and Leona Stockwell Rumbaugh.

In November the museum staff had a restoration session that resulted in removing the cement covering from the kitchen floor and the plaster from a kitchen wall that revealed the original fireplace. Mrs. Rumbaugh said that it is believed that the fireplace was enclosed and the cement floor laid between 1910 and 1920. The random width pine flooring found under the cement floor is believed original to the 1867 kitchen addition on the home. The fireplace appears to be one made just for heating but it could have been used for cooking if coals were pulled out onto the hearth and used under iron spiders.

Renovation will resume again now that the Christmas season is over. Work will center on the kitchen and back hall again according to Mrs. Rumbaugh. "We have to do some research to decide how to restore the fireplace," she said. The crew is sure there was no mantel but think there may have been a shelf at eye level. "We don't know if plaster was put over the brick, or perhaps a pine board went around the fireplace," she indicated. The museum staff will research kitchens of the era before they determine what steps to take.

Labor history planned

Michigan State University's School of Labor and Industrial Relations is compiling a labor history from 1850 to the present time. It is to be a comprehensive history of work and working people. They are looking for photographs, articles and memorabilia of workers, working places and labor relations and organizations. If you have anything to share in this study contact Rick Fantini, graduate student, School of Labor and Industrial Relations, MSU, East Lansing, MI. His phone number is 517-355-5070.

from Hila Bross

...and the entire Historical Society, a very big thank you to the Rumbaughs and the Wallings for opening the museum for the December Historical Society meeting. Everything was festive and beautiful. It made the social meeting a gala occasion, indeed.

Another thank you

A nice way to thank the Alpena museum for their thoughtful gift might be to drop in for a visit some time. It's called the Jesse Besser Museum and it is located at 491 Johnson St., Alpena. Its major collection includes tools and implements of early Great Lakes Indian cultures and recreated 1890's avenue of shops. There is also a planetarium with Spitz Model A3P. Open year around, Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thurs., 7-9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sun. 1 - 5 p.m.

ere continues the listing of tombstone readings for the first 20 years of burials in Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns:

1869 (Cont.)

BUTLER, MARY E. wife of Albert L. Butler Died June 16, age 19 years.
 CRANDALL, MARGARET wife of Francis Crandall Died Sept 2, age 76 years.
 WILSON, HARRY Died Mar 18, age 59 years.
 ROSE, WILLIE A. T. son of H. A. & Zada M. Rose Died Aug 13, age 7 months.
 WRIGHT, BENJAMIN Died Jan 23, age 80 years.
 HEWITT, MARITTA L. wife of E. C. Hewitt Died Dec 13, age 28 years.
 SWAIN, ORLANDO Died Dec 5, age 78 years.

1870

VREDENBURG, MARY O. wife of Frank Vredenburg Died Dec 23, age 29 years.
 EDWARDS, SARAH wife of Hiram Edwards Died Aug 13, age 38 years.
 HOTCHKISS, ELLA A. daughter of M. D. & S. E. Hotchkiss Died April 1, age 16 years.
 WILKINSON, HATTIE daughter of R. & J. Wilkinson Died Apr 30, age 14 years.
 HARRIS, JENNIE E. daughter of N. V. & H. L. Harris Died Apr 29, age 2 years.
 HARRIS, SAMUEL A. son of N. V. & H. L. Harris Died Apr 30, age 3 months.
 PAINE, JOHN W. Died Sept 26, age 49 years.

1871

McGRADY, HATTIE A. wife of D. H. McGrady Died Feb 16, age 23 years.
 WELTON, FRANCIS daughter of H. P. and Ada Welton Died Mar 28, age 3 years.
 McLAIN, CATHERINE wife of Daniel McClain Died Feb 28, age 69 years.
 CONN, ANNIS E. wife of Lynde S. Conn Died Mar 19, age 67 years
 BENNETT, IRWIN Died Nov 4, age 35 years.
 EMMONS, CORNELIA wife of George W. Emmons Died Aug 8, age 41 years.
 RABY, DINAH wife of E. D. Raby Died Sept 19, age 61 years.
 EMMONS, GRACE infant daughter of Philenous & S. Emmons Died Aug. 11.

1872

HARVEY, J. G. Died June 14, age 36 years.
 RENNELS, WILLIAM Died Feb. 24, age 54 years.
 LYON, PHEBE wife of Obadiah Lyon Died Dec 23, age 66 years.
 STEWART, EULALIA daughter of Dr. D.C. & S.C. Stewart Died Apr 6, age 17 years.
 BUSH, BYRON P. son of N. W. & L. M. Bush Died Oct 7, age 2 years.
 KNIFFIN, NANCY Died Oct. 31, age 63 years.
 ROBARDS, MYRTIE daughter of J & K Robards Died Aug 7, age 2 years.
 BRIDGEMAN, EDNA J. daughter of Q. E. & E. E. Bridgeman Died Jan 10, age 16 years.
 WISE, CLARENCE son of J. C. & E. L. Wise Died Nov 12, age 4 years.

To be con't...

There are 4 more years of this compiled list found by the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society. They will be finished next month along with notes on where they were discovered.

Last chance

Included here is a membership coupon as a reminder to members who have not paid their 1979 dues. The \$2 membership fee just about covers the cost of this newsletter so if you haven't contributed, please send in the coupon and your check as soon as possible. If you would like to receive a membership card, enclose a self-stamped envelope.

You may also become a "Friends of the Museum" contributor with a donation of \$5 or more. These fees are needed to continue the work of the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP COUPON

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

Membership in Clinton County
Historical Society \$2.

Friends of the
Museum

\$5.
\$10.
MORE

Send coupon to: Clinton County Historical Society
Box 174
St. Johns, Mich. 48879

Clinton County Historical Society

P. O. Box 174
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID St. Johns, Michigan Permit No. 104
--

Arlynn Gantz
Box 535
DeWitt, MI 48820