

# Ora Fish Dies

Mrs. Orientis A. Fish, Charter Member of the Clinton County Historical Society and 1979-80 recording secretary, died Sunday, Feb. 17 at her home in St. Johns.

Ora was active in many organizations and will be missed by all of her friends. She was past-secretary of the Friends of Bement Library, past-president of St. Johns Morning Musicals and sang in the choir of the Congregational Church.

Goldie Moore has taken over Ora's duties as recording secretary.

# Clinton Independent

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## Railroad, interurban discussion continues

We'll hear more about the railroad and interurban in Clinton County at the March meeting, Thursday, the 20th at 7:30 p.m. at Capitol Savings and Loan, downtown St. Johns.

There was standing room only at the February meeting and program chairmen have found so much material and interest on the railroad and interurban that it has been decided to extend the topic one more month.

The March program will be a panel discussion headed by Ford Ceasar and audience participation is encouraged.

Also slated for the March meeting is the election of officers. Nominated are Hila Bross for another term as president; Ford Ceasar, vice-president; recording secretary Goldie Moore; Edwina Wakefield, corresponding secretary; Mildred Brown treasurer, and Alta Reed and Carole Klein as directors. These officers will take over in May.

Volunteers are being sought for service on the standing committees. Please call Hila and let her know you will serve on:

- Social committee (refreshments)
- Membership committee
- Program committee
- Genealogy committee
- Oral history committee
- Historic sites committee
- Publications
- Restoration committee

## Order History Book

The History Book committee reports that while the deadline is passed for family histories, they will still accept business, organization and professional society histories.

The 1980 History of Clinton County will be published by Christmas of 1980. It may be ordered now for \$30.50. The committee is certain the price will go up upon printing. If you order a book now you also may have your name imprinted on the cover.

Reserve your book by sending a check with your name, address and telephone number to:  
The History Book Committee  
Clinton County Historical Society  
Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

Be sure to give your name as you wish to have it transcribed on the book. Forms for ordering are available at the Bement Library, St. Johns.

## Museum makes historic register

The Paine-Gillam-Scott 1860 House Museum has been placed on the register for State Historic Sites by the Michigan History Division of the Michigan History Commission it has been announced by Margaret M. Bigelow, secretary of the commission.

The museum is now one of 1,200 sites in the state listed on the register because of significant historical interest.

## Visit the museum

There's a lot of activity going on at the Paine-Gillam-Scott 1860 House Museum which is open two days a week during the winter months. You can tour the museum on Wednesdays from 2 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from noon until 4 p.m.

## Restoration series

Catering to old house lovers a series on restoration is being presented on Sundays from 3 to 4 p.m. Slides and speakers offer tips and solutions for persons interested in fixing up an older home.

On Sunday, March 16, Mark Barber and Jerry Witgen, who have been involved in many restoration projects in St. Johns will lead a discussion and show slides on "The Victorian House Colors".

Sunday, March 23, Karen Kusenda, interior designer for Clinton Home Center will present a program on "Wallpaper and the Historic House". An old wallpaper book which dates back to the early 1900's will be on display.

Also to be introduced are the museum's collection of "Old House Journals," an indexed guide to restoration know how. The public is welcome to use the journals which offer expert advice on everything an old house owner needs to know. Information is available on how to stiffen sagging floors, seal leaking windows and remove stains from masonry. Articles also cover running electrical wire, tips on stripping shutters, the anatomy of a staircase, repairing old chimneys and what not to remove from an old house.

## Carnival glass

In the front room display case visitors will now find an interesting collection of carnival glass and other pieces owned by Kenneth Vance of Ann Arbor. Mr. Vance is a native of Fowler. It is his family property that the Round School House sits on.

Of special note in his collection is a very beautiful punch bowl and cups of carnival glass that he has given to the museum as a gift.

Other new displays include the museum's carpenter tools which are on exhibit upstairs. In the diningroom are Sheryl Plowman's collection of sentimental china and glass.

## Genealogists on board

Don't forget that someone is on hand every Sunday in the Genealogists Room at the museum. Members of that committee are staffing the room so people who have questions on how to get started on their family tree can talk to a local expert. The committee members can also give leads and special information.

If you would like to place a query in this newsletter, please contact, Arlynn G. Gantz, P.O. Box 535, DeWitt, MI 48820.

QUERY RICHARD SMITH born 25 April 1827 in Pennsylvania, and his wife, AURELIA NICKERSON born 18 Nov 1823, lived and died in Dallas Township. Richard was the son of SAMUEL & SALLY SMITH. Is this family in any way related to the SAMUEL SMITH who died in DeWitt Township? Also need information regarding JOHN N. NEWMAN, born 12 Aug 1826, married first to MARY SLOAN, and second to MARY ELAINE.

Thank you: Margaret G. GROSS, 13911 Windemere Drive, N.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

## Minister writes of courthouse square

The Rev. Harold Homer, past pastor of the St. Johns Methodist Church has an interesting article in the Michigan Christian Advocate, the weekly publication of the United Methodist Church the week of Feb. 21. In a weekly column called, "My Experience", he writes eloquently of the courthouse square in St. Johns. He relates the buildings he sees to the human lifetime, the courthouse (law and order), the churches (spiritual), schools (youth and education) and the funeral home (death and parting). Ask a Methodist friend to see this article and look for an adaptation in the History of Clinton County, 1980.

## Early Catholic burials

Over the past few months the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society have presented a listing of tombstone readings for the first 20 years of burials in Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns. This month's listing is of early interments in the Roman Catholic Section of Mt. Rest Cemetery as found in the "St. Johns, Michigan Independent", Thursday, July 11, 1878.

"In the Northeast corner of Mt. Rest Cemetery, the Roman Catholic burying grounds are located, in which the inscriptions upon the marble and wooded head-boards show that the remains of the following named persons have been interred."

### 1868

HIGGINS, ANN Died Sept 16, age 48 years

### 1869

McCANN, JAMES Died Aug 29, age 46 years

### 1870

PLUNKETT, ELIZABETH Died Jan 4, age 27 years

### 1871

RYAN, CATHERINE Died Sept 16, age 6 years

### 1872

MORGAN, SARAH wife of Hugh Morgan Died Oct 15, age 19 years

BOYLE, SUSAN JOHANNA Died Mar 27, age 2 years

HEAT, MARGARET Died Oct 11, (no age given)

### 1873

FOLEY, MARIA daughter of Thomas & Catherine Foley Died July 29, age 25 years

### 1874

RYAN, PATRICK Died July 11, age 24 years

PLUNKETT, JOHN Died Apr 23, age 85 years

COAKLEY, MARY daughter of J. & M. Coakley Died Mar 6, age 1 year

COAKLEY, CATHERINE daughter of J. & M. Coakley Died Feb 14, age 5 years

HENNING... Infant son of M. J. & E. Henning Died Oct 3

BAUMGARDNER, SOPHIA WEBER wife of Felix Baumgardner Died Jan 30 (no age given)

### 1876

WILSON, JOHNNY son of Mrs. Margie Wilson Died Apr 29, age 3 years

Note - The above readings are of valuable genealogical record today because some of the markers are now gone. They were only made of wooden headboards and crosses. Only the stone markers remain.

## Genealogists meet first Mondays

The Genealogists invite the public to attend their monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m., the first Monday of each month in the basement of the Bement Library, St. Johns. The May 5th meeting will be held at the Elsie Public Library and the DeWitt Library is to be the site of a future meeting.

## 1980 dues go up

1980 memberships in the Clinton County Historical Society are now available with the payment of this year's dues. Members voted at the February meeting to raise dues to \$4 a person and \$7 a couple. Members under 18 will only pay \$2.

The Historical Society meets monthly on the third Thursday for a short general meeting and special programs which are announced in this newsletter.

If you wish to receive a membership card and do not attend the monthly meetings enclose a self-stamped envelope with your membership check.

### MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$4.00

Couple \$7.00

youth \$2.00

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

Clinton County Historical Society

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