



THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT 1982

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

HOME TOUR — SEPT. 18



"Bells, Steeples and Spires" is the theme of the Sept. 18 Home Tour which will include, for the first time ever in St. Johns, a Decorator Showcase home.

Our president, Betty Moore, said all churches in the downtown area will be included in the tour along with Paine Gillam Scott Museum which CCHS operates in a home owned by the county which is leased to our Society.

The home was the second home in St. Johns to be built of brick but it is the oldest brick home because the first home was torn down. Also on exhibit will be an Italianate styled home built in the 1860's and now owned by Robert and Jean Rand at M-21 and Swegles Street. It was renovated in stages through the years, with much of it rebuilt.

The Rands have agreed not only to include it in the home tour but it will also be open on Sunday, Sept. 19 from 1 - 5 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 22, from 2 - 8 p.m. Paine Gillam Scott Museum will also be open on Sunday and Wednesday.

The Rand home will be decorated inside by two St. Johns firms: Mark Roberts will do the living rooms (there is a double living room) and Clinton Home Center will do the bedrooms, bath and kitchen.

Tickets for the Home Tour are \$3. Anyone who misses the Decorator Showcase home can tour it Sunday or Wednesday when tickets will be \$1.

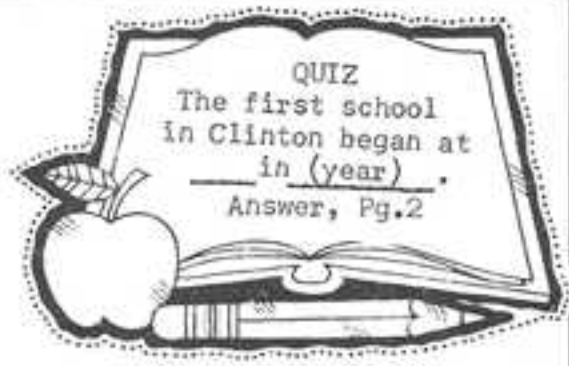
Churches which will be included in the tour include the St. Johns Episcopal Church, First United Methodist Church and First Congregational Church. The Catholic Church had a wedding that day and could not participate.

Moore said people are needed to act as greeters and hostesses all three days and anyone who can work should call her at 224-2025.

Also included on Home Tour Day will be a Farmer's Market on Maple Street, and numerous activities on the Courthouse Greens including arts & crafts booths. Jody Smith, Chamber of Commerce manager, is helping organize those activities.

Moore said memberships, which will be good through 1983, will be sold at the ticket booth that day. Catherine Rumbaugh, museum director, said special displays include items from the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-93 which was the 400th anniversary of Columbus discovering America. Other items include German steins, Lebanon Township artifacts & our new "Doctor's Office" will be opened.

If you can help during
Home Tour Call 224-2025



GENEALOGY GAZETTE

COMING UP

'BAGAS' AND OATS 1ST CROPS TO BE RAISED IN RILEY

ATWELL SIMMONS WAS THE FIRST SETTLER IN RILEY. HE CAME TO THAT TOWNSHIP AFTER LIVING AWHILE IN WASTENAW COUNTY. HE WAS A NATIVE OF ONTARIO COUNTY N. Y. HE CHOPPED AND CLEARED SEVEN ACRES IN THE WINTER OF 1836-37 AND THE FOLLOWING SUMMER RAISED RUTABAGAS AND OATS. THE FOLLOWING YEAR HE HAD SEVERAL ACRES IN WHEAT. MRS. SIMMONS SPUN AND WOVE FLAX RAISED. THEY PLANTED THE FIRST ORCHARD.

COURTLAND HILL AND MORRIS BOUGHTON WERE OTHER PIONEERS WHO CAME ABOUT THE SAME TIME. BOUGHTON WAS A BACHELOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT HE FINALLY WENT BACK TO NEW YORK FOR THE GIRL WHO WAS WAITING FOR HIM. HE WAS FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED TO LOCATE LAND FOR SETTLERS. OFTEN HE SOLD HIS WHEAT IN DETROIT FOR 50 CENTS A BUSHEL, HAULING IT THERE WITH OX TEAMS. MR. BOUGHTON BECAME ONE OF THE PROMINENT MEN OF THE TOWNSHIP, FILLING PROMINENT OFFICES. HE DIED IN 1876, LEAVING A WIDOW AND EIGHT CHILDREN. RILEY PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE RICHEST AGRICULTURAL SECTIONS OF THE COUNTY. PHILLIP PECK, ANOTHER PIONEER BUILT A FRAME HOUSE THE WINTER OF 1844 AND PAID THE MASTER CARPENTER, A MAN NAMED CHUBB FROM LYONS, WITH 12 POUNDS OF MAPLE SUGAR FOR EACH DAY'S WORK. WHEN THE BARN WAS BUILT ON THE PLACE, 70 MEN AND WOMEN FROM MILES AROUND CAME AND A GREAT BANQUET AND PARTY WAS HELD.

THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AT AN EARLY DATE IN A CLINTON COUNTY PAPER. IT RE-APPEARED IN THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE CLINTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN NEWS IN APRIL 1931.

THE VOICES OF THE PAST ARE LIKE LEAVES THAT SETTLE TO THE GROUND.
THEY MAKE THE EARTH RICH AND THICK, SO THAT NEW FRUIT WILL COME
FORTH EVERY SUMMER.

.....CHIEF DAN GEORGE, ACTOR,

Sept. 4 Archives closed
Sept. 13, Genealogists meet at Capitol Savings & Loan, St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. with program by Charles Coletta on "Camera Use In Family Research".

Sept. 18, Home Tour - see flyer
Sept. 19, Museum and Decorator Showcase House open, 1-5 p.m.

Sept. 22, Museum and Decorator Showcase House open, 2-8 p.m.

Oct. 1-2, West. Mich. Genealogy Society co-hosts Mich. Gen. Councils at Marriott in Grand Rapids.

Oct. 16, Capital City Antiquarian Book Fair and Sale in Gallery Rooms of Lansing Public Library at 401 S. Capital, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Over 20 dealers will have items. Admission is free. For info Call 517-321-1746.

Oct. 23, Mich. Oral History Council fall meeting at Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in Proud Lake Recreation Area. \$7 fee includes hot buffet, program on videotaping oral history, pamphlets, films. For info call 313-363-6618.

ARCHIVES OPEN: Tues, Noon to 8 p.m.
Thurs, 3-9 p.m.
Sat., Noon to 4 p.m.

MUSEUM OPEN: Sun., 1 - 5 p.m.
Wed., 2 - 8 p.m.

QUIZ ANSWERS; DeWitt in 1837.



(Editor's Note; From time to time, for the benefit of our out-of-area members who may be interested in what is happening in Clinton County that is present-day but historically related, we will recap news events or happenings.)

MAPLE RAPIDS SCHOOL TO CLOSE: Because of a millage defeat in August the Fulton School Board decided to close the Maple Rapids Elementary School. Students will be bused to a school at Fulton. No decision has been made on the fate of the sprawling old building.

DEATHS: Mary C. Walsworth, 98, died in San Bernardino, California. In the 1920-30's she and her husband, Henry, were co-owners of Coleman's Tavern, also called Park House and Frenches Corners, a stagecoach inn 4 miles north of St. Johns on US 27.....

Edna Pouch of St. Johns. She was well known for her interest in old buildings and had acquired numerous ones through the years including the old log cabin gas station that still stands near the corner of US 27 and N. Clinton Ave.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS SAVED: This summer St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Johns dedicated an addition which filled in the grassy area between the church and rectory. The congregation is to be commended for saving the stained glass windows which were removed from the original outside walls and reused in the addition.

QUONSUT HAS NAME: The quonsut hut at the 4-H Fairgrounds in St. Johns has been named the "Peck Exhibit Hall" in honor of the late Clyde and Verna Peck who were active in county 4-H programs. For out-of-towners - the 4-H fair held in August drew over 5,000 exhibits and the event is the only one in mid-Michigan that is solely youth oriented. There is no midway or commercialism.

BATH TUB RACE: Bath made news with its summer bath tub race down a 150-yard stretch of Main Street there. The tubs, mostly old and cast iron, were put on wheels and powered by gravity and a hefty push by friends of the drivers.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: Fowler and Elsie celebrated birthdays this summer. Fowler was 125 years old and the event included a parade, a covered wagon used in the 1957 100th celebration, BBQ, bake sale, "Vegas Night" (night club type party tent), and burial of a time capsule, which included tidbits like a Rubik's Cube, under the water tower to be opened 200 years from now.

Elsie also celebrated its 125th with a saw-cutting contest, bingo, street dance, community pancake breakfast, tractor pulling, canoe race, street dance, dunking booth, and Czeck dancing.

ROCHESTER COLONY SPRINGS A LEAK: Historic Rochester Colony attracted state-wide media attention when a spring on the farm of Don and Jean Temple, who are CCHS members, began spraying 3.5 million gallons of water daily into the Maple River. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is monitoring the problem and the Corps of Engineers is expected to recommend a solution.

NEWS and NOTES

Betty Moore, our president, supplied this update on the story Libby wrote on the Brownie Brigade. Moore said the Motor Wheel Co. was located where Federal Mogul now is. After it left the city eventually acquired the site & the building was recycled for other uses with the city leasing it to other firms including the St. Johns Table Co. After it burned the city recycled the bricks with the pavilion & other buildings at city park built as a WPA project.

She also said the football field at the park was lighted in 1937, one of the first to be lighted.

FORD CEASAR, our past president, led a number of mini-tours this summer to "forgotten" Clinton communities for CRV, a local volunteer group.

NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE: Margaret Huey, David Swanson & Helen Hiller of St. Johns; Mary Upton of Maple Rapids and Diane Kawawaki of California.

CRESSMAN REUNION: 56 descendants of Isaac F. Cressman had a summer reunion with 6-year old Joey Sanchez, "great, great, great grandson" of Cressman playing accordian. Arden Cressman read a sketch of Cressman's migration from Pa. to Mi. in 1861. He left the Allentown Seminary to enlist in the Union Forces but was rejected because of health. He migrated to Pontiac and in 1863 bought a Bengal Township farm. In 1865 he bought 360 acres in Bingham Township where he raised 10 children. Eight, and many of their descendants, are buried in the S. Bingham Cemetary which the group toured, counting 31 Cressman graves. Many present day Cressmans are studying family genealogy; some books have been published and some Cressmans are touring Germany to do research.

HILA BROSS, one of our founders and a former president is back in Traverse City and plans to spend the winter with her son there.

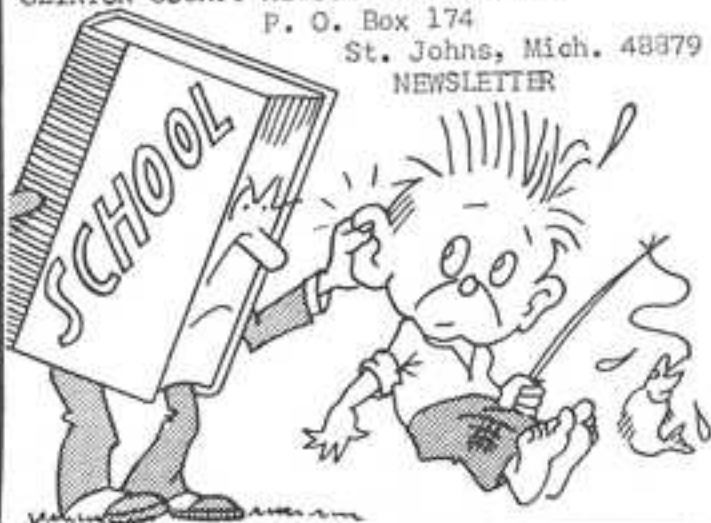
BETTY JANE MINSKY, our Independent editor, writer, copy reader and whatever, will be in London in Sept. on vacation, so everyone is urged to get copy for the Oct. issue to her by Sept. 8 (mostly notes of upcoming meetings, etc.) so a shortened version of the newsletter can be done before she leaves the next weekend. Thanks for your cooperation and for understanding why the October letter may be a single-page issue.

CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: To help with the home tour. Call Betty Moore, 224-2025.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: To help 3-4 hours once a month at the museum. Call Catherine Rumbaugh at 224-7402.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 174
St. Johns, Mich. 48879
NEWSLETTER



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