



THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT 1982

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FAYE HANSON DIES

Faye E. Hanson, 60, a Clinton County Historical Society charter member, noted area historian and DeWitt librarian for 22 years, died of cancer Jan. 9.

She entered a Lansing hospital Dec. 21, and on Dec. 30 the cancer diagnosis came as a surprise. She immediately "organized everything" - put her house in order, so to speak.

That was her style!

Prior to her death the DeWitt City Council made Faye an honorary resident of the city and the library board renamed the library in her honor.

She was a member of the Clinton Historical Commission, worked on DeWitt and county history books and publications and was working on the Heritage Conservation Survey until her illness intervened.



What's It ?????
This instrument was used in England to punish some publishers and writers. The Puritans brought it with them to New England and used it to punish drunkards, scolds, bawds, & those accused of minor offenses.
Answer - Page 3.

PRESIDENTIAL POTPOURRI

CCHS made history Jan. 21 when a meeting set for Capital Savings & Loan, due to scheduling irregularity, had to move to Central National Bank but things worked out well.

We enjoyed a fine presentation by Jim La Lone of Lansing on French Canadian genealogy and history. He told us to "start right at home with local libraries" and praised the state library for its collections.

Your president attended the funeral of Faye Hanson who was buried at Gunnisonville Cemetery Jan. 12. The Society has voted to put the usual amount in the Memorial Account in her name.

The Ceasar's enjoyed a trip to the Gulf of Mobile to visit a son and his family during the holidays. We visited the Hermitage, home of former Pres. Andrew Jackson at Nashville; the home and estate of Jefferson Davis at Biloxi and the Bellingrath Gardens and home near Mobile.

Your president presented a slide lecture on Vermont to a senior citizens group at Grand Ledge, Jan. 14, emphasizing that state's history and beauty.

Chuck Coletta has been appointed chairman of our nominating committee.

Thanks to Betty Jane Minsky for a great job with our newsletter.

...Ford Ceasar



GENEALOGY GAZETTE

Mrs. Cyril E. Smith contributed the following paper to the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society. The paper was copied verbatim.

Story told by John Strause to Lydia Oyer back in the 1930's

Solomon Keck

Solomon Keck whose mother was a sister to Manasseh & Moses Kuntz was a fine young man who was an expert boatsman. The Keck's lived in a long cabin, on the (now) Krepps Place. His folks were among the pioneers of this community, and suffered the hardships and privations which most of the early settlers had to endure.

Bitter poverty seemed to be their common lot. This being a thickly forested section, they had plenty of wood to burn and wild game to hunt for food. Young Solomon boated up and down the Maple River fishing as well as getting other game. He had some sort of wire line fastened to the back of his boat; which fishermen used in those days. One summer day the Keck family planned to go several miles to the north, where blackberries were abundant. Solomon decided that he would row up the river rather than drive over bumpy roads and meet the family at the east bridge. They picked berries, then went home as they came, Solomon boating his way back. When the wagon load of folks returned to their humble log cabin they were not surprised that he was not at home for, they thought that he probably went to one of his uncles for the night. However the next day they discovered that no one had seen him since they parted at the bridge the evening before and searched the river. The empty boat was found, but no Solomon.

The immediate conclusion of all was that the Indians had captured or killed him. The whites questioned the Indians, but to no avail. They pretended ignorance of the boy's whereabouts, but finally the lifeless body was found in the river, wrapped so intricately with the wire line from his boat, that the men had difficulty in unwinding it. The whole community was saddened and grief stricken, they gathered at the little church for the funeral service.

His bosom pal, John Strauser, himself dug the grave, declaring that it was the hardest task he ever had to perform. Just one year later John too met a tragic death and was buried beside his friend.

But why did the Indians kill Solomon Keck? They were very friendly to the white people, if they were treated kindly. Their gratefulness knew no bounds when the "white brother" proved himself a friend, especially in need. But they bitterly resented slights and insults. Poor Solomon was not cruel to them, but often teased and perhaps insulted them.

He could perfectly imitate their Indian yells and whoops and often indulged in this sport(?) while passing the miserable dwelling places along the river, in the thick woods..no doubt they were fooled many times, thinking one of their own tribe was hailing them, or perhaps they took his jokes as taunts and mockery. Maybe they interpreted his attitude as one expression of derision. At any rate, they disliked him, hated him, and wreaked out their vengeance upon him in a

GENEALOGY GAZETTE CONT'D.

cruel way. They no doubt feared the consequence of their deed, for in a very few days after the murder, not an Indian was to be found in these woods. Some of them were well known to the white people, and were seen later up in Montcalm County. Probably they thought that they removed far away where none of the white people would go to hunt them up.

Anyone who wishes to have any of their family stories printed please contact Janet Snyder, Acting Chairman P. O. BOX 23, St Johns, MI. Or 487-1033.



The Genealogists have compiled a scrapbook of some of Faye Hanson's Newspaper articles DeWitt Yesterday and Today written proceeding and during the Bi-Centennial Celebration in DeWitt. The scrapbook will be placed in their collection in "Her Memory" for her work and interest she has shown in the history of Clinton County.

Genealogy

Begins as an interest

Becomes a hobby;

continues as an avocation;

takes over as an obsession;

and in its last stages,

is an incurable disease

Q U I Z A N S W E R

This instrument was called a pillory but a more common name was "The Stocks."



D U E S

Enclosed are my membership dues for 1982.

\$4 Single _____
 \$7 Family _____
 \$2 Age 18 and under _____

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

Name:
 Address:

G I F T

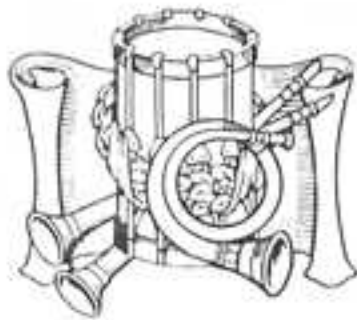
I want to remember the PAINE - GILLAM - SCOTT MUSEUM. Enclosed is my Friends of the Museum donation.

\$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ OTHER _____

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

Name:
 Address:

MUSEUM MUSINGS



PAINÉ - GILLAM - SCOTT Museum will celebrate the 250 birthday of George Washington this month with special events as follows:

- EACH SUNDAY: Baroque Music, Harpsichord and recorders, 2 - 4 p.m. and slide presentations, 1 - 2 p.m.
- EACH WEDNESDAY: 3 - 4 p.m., program series on Washington presented by the River Wabwaysin Chapter D.A.R. with Janet Snyder, Adele Jones, Shirley Pouch and Hila Bross presenting programs.

SPECIAL FEBRUARY EXHIBIT includes two Martha Washington gowns reproduced for the 200th anniversary in 1932, given in memory of Lole DeGroot, books and pictures. MARCH and APRIL displays will include antique Easter cards.

Regular hours at the museum which is on Maple across from the Courthouse in St. Johns are Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m. and Wednesdays, 2 - 8 p.m. with programs for schools and groups by reservation. Call 224-2894 or 224-7402.

NEWS and NOTES

Ken Coin has been appointed to succeed Arlynn Gantz on the Clinton County Historical Commission.....Hila Bross is recuperating from surgery at her home at Rt. 3, French Road, St. Johns, 48879....Thanks to Cindy Wycoff, a new member for taking on the chore of folding and stapling the newsletter.

COMING UP

Feb. 18, regular Society meeting at Central National Bank, St. Johns with program on Zachariah Chandler by Libbie Spoelma and Ford Ceasar at 7:30.

March 1, Genealogists meet for potluck at KC Hall, N. US 27, at St. Johns at 6:30 p.m. - bring genealogical article to share or research problem & its solution.

April 5, Genealogists meet at 7:30 p.m., Central National Bank, St. Johns for program on camera use in family research.

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 174
ST. JOHNS, MI. 48879
NEWSLETTER

St. Johns, MI.
PERMIT
NO. 104
Non-Profit Org.

Happy Valentine's Day

Arlynn Gantz
P.O. Box 535
DeWitt, MI 48820