



# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT 1982

## CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER


### Presidential Reflections

Ford Ceasar, president of CCHS, has announced that the next meeting will be at Capital Savings & Loan in St. Johns, June 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Ken Coin will give an illustrated lecture on DeWitt.

Ceasar will turn the presidential gavel over to Betty Moore (Mrs. James) for the 1982-83 year. Mildred Brown, treasurer, and Goldie Moore, secretary, will also be leaving the board.

Pres. Ford said he is proud to have had a part in the activities of CCHS this



past year. Events included the Babcock Old Car Tour last August which included car clubs from St. Johns and Lansing; the annual home tour which included homes in DeWitt and St. Johns, another first; a visit at Uncle John's Cider Mill, a holiday open house at the Robert LaFave residence on Wood Road; and a visit to the Livingston's sugarbush, all successes.

At the Christmas open house at our museum Hila Bross presented a check for \$4,000 from the sale of history books.

Ford thanks all officers and committees who helped in the past year. He will continue as a director this year.

He will not be idle as his prime desire is to publish his interurban history "The Great Northern Ghost" this summer. He will attend a Methodist Church Conference in Ill. in July & is vice-pres. of a Methodist Christmas Conference in 1984. He is active in the United Methodist Church Historical Society, Ingham County Historical Commission and is historian of the Chief Okemos Council, Boy Scouts of America.

### Gravestone Found

The gravestone that originally marked the grave of Rodney B. Wilson, after who the junior high school at St. Johns is named, was found by Brian Plowman, an 8th grader working on a history project for the schools "Spring Festival" which will be held from 6-9 p.m. May 27, following the Memorial Day Parade in St. Johns. The public is invited to view projects in the school gym, including a number of historic items.

Betty Jane Minsky, our newsletter editor, has agreed to head a drive to have Wilson's gravestone permanently placed, along with an informational showcase on the Wilson family, on the lawn in front of the school. She and Principal Bob Kudwa noted that it is at the head of Maple Street, about a block from our museum.

Plowman was working on a paper on cemeteries when he learned the gravestone was lying unmarked at Mt. Rest cemetery since his body was moved to a new plot years ago. Students hauled it to the school.

Wilson died of influenza at age 18 in 1918. His parents donated land for the school & money for a scholarship fund.

Donations are needed to cover cost of the project and can be sent to Kudwa at the school.



ANNOUNCING

(Because of the number of activities upcoming early in June this months' CCHS newsletter was rushed out early. They include the following;)

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE: The CCHS genealogists will hold a rummage-bake sale at the archives on N. U. S. 27 on June 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contributions will be accepted there Tuesday, June 1 from noon to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 3 from 3 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, June 5 from noon to 4 p.m. or call Arlene Schrader, 669-3219 or Emily Davis, 224-2067. No clothing, please. Proceeds will

be used for microfilm for filming old newspapers of the county. (The archives are in the Salt Box House at the southwest corner of U.S. 27 and French Road.

JUNE MEETING... June 7, 7:30 p.m. at Central National Bank Building, St. Johns. Program on Michigan soldiers in the War of 1812, and Evangeline Caudy will speak on the Daughters of the War of 1812.

ARCHIVES CLOSED Saturdays May 29 and July 3 so workers may have long Memorial and Fourth of July weekends.

JULY MEETING DATE... Monday, July 5 is a holiday weekend so genealogists will hold the monthly meeting Monday, July 12 at Central National Bank, St. Johns, at 7:30 p.m.

THANK YOU..... "I want to thank everyone who furnished baked goods and brought raffle tickets at our bake sale at the museum. Also, a big thank you to Arlene Schroder & Wilma Soule for their help. Everyone made it a success...Janet Snyder, chairman of the genealogists.

CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET - Margaret Puetz was the raffle winner (museum bake sale) and received a warm, rust-colored blanket.

QUERRIES

#037-81 Would like to exchange information about Sherwood & Belamy families of Clinton Co., Naomi Hilda Sherwood B. about 1863 in Greenbush Twp. Her parents were Marion Sherwood & Amanda Belamy. Marion's parents were William Sherwood & Huldah Williams, both born in New York State & buried in Greenbush Twp., they located in Greenbush Twp. in 1860. Amanda's parents David Belamy & Susan Pettigrew both born in Canada & located in Essex Twp., Maple Rapids in 1860. Anne Keller, R #7, Box 18 Chippewa Falls, WI. 54729

#001-82 Looking for information on Thomas Rudgers, born Apr. 4 1815, Wyoming Co. N. Y., Died Feb. 18, 1887. Parents Daniel & Nancy (Purdy) Rudgers. Thomas married Jane Bush. Lived in Fowler, Mi. prior to 1850. Believed to be in Ionia Co. Portland, Mi. By 1850. Donald T. Rudgers, 72 Summit St., LeRoy, New York 14482

# MUSEUM MUSINGS

## DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 16 & 23 (Wednesday evenings) at 7 p.m. slide presentations will be shown.) The April, 1979 program of the Altar Society of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, "Parade of Brides", has been preserved on slides and tape. It was prepared by Jean Martin.

CLEAN UP TIME ...Museum staff and hopefully some volunteers, Clean-Up of newly acquired items - some scrubbing and stripping - Saturdays, June 5 & 12, starts at 10 a.m. Bring a sandwich. Wednesday evening, June 9, at 6:30 p.m.

ADVISORY BOARD: Meets Monday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m.



## MUSEUM TIDBITS:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...Can you give 3-4 hours once a month to serve as a docent (guide) on a Sunday or Wednesday? We also have need for volunteers for other work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. How about you? It is enjoyable and, "believe it or not," there is always something new to learn and your knowledge can contribute to it. Call Catherine Rumbaugh at 224-7402.

WE SELL.....a paint stripper called Kut Kote for \$12 per gallon. Also a product called Finish Feeder at \$4.25 a pint. Both are excellent quality.

THANK YOU...for our successful "Magnolia Week". The Revolutionary Soldiers re-enactment group; the museum guides, the township representatives of our "Calico Trash and Treasure Sale"; the auctioneer, Dixie Lee Kosloski; the Senior Citizen Kitchen Band; ALL OF YOU who made donations of articles and the St. Johns Reminder. We made \$790.50 that day.

In grateful appreciation,  
The staff of PAINÉ-GILLAM-SCOTT HOUSE  
Clinton County Historical Museum

GIFTS: PAINÉ-GILLAM-SCOTT HOUSE accepts monetary gifts and memorials.

Send your friend-of-the-museum gift to: Clinton County Historical Society, Box 174, St. Johns, Mi. 48879 along with your name and address.

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QUIZ - The first day of summer is June \_\_\_\_\_. Answer on page 4.

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GOOD ADVICE FROM OUR GENEALOGISTS ...Postage has gone up. Never expect an answer unless you send a self-addressed stamped envelop (SASE).

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WELCOME: New members include Ray & Gertrude Eich of St. Johns; Oral J. Abel of Crystal River, Fla; Judith Warren of Holt; Jennifer Lynn of Grand Rapids and Peggy McCune of Columbus, Ohio.

## NEWS and NOTES

HILA WILL RETURN... Hila M. Bross, our immediate past president and one of our founders, who has been recuperating at her son's home at Traverse City, plans to return for Memorial Day and to stay on for a few weeks. We welcome her back.

OUR SYMPATHY..... To Jetty Jane Minsky, our newsletter editor, whose mother-in-law passed away in May. (That necessitated a trip to Wisconsin and is the reason for the lack of art in this month's letter.)

NEWSLETTER COPY... Because of events scheduled early in the month recently it has been necessary to move the publication date up. Anticipating this will continue, I will try to have newsletters out by the end of each month for the upcoming month. That will mean copy must reach me by the 15th for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Send news items to: Betty Jane Minsky, Rt. 3, St. Johns, MI, 48879. We reserve the right to edit to fit space.

QUIZ ANSWER..... Summer starts June 21.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST CONTINUES: Don't forget - incoming President Betty Moore has a prize, which will be awarded at our July pot-luck at Maple Rapids, for the person bringing in the most new members before June 30. Ask your friends to join. Then send their name and address, along with their dues, to Clinton County Historical Society, Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879. Include your name so you can be credited in the contest.

Dues are...\$4 single member; \$7 family; \$2 for those 18 or under.

COMING UP..... "Thumbnail sketches" of our ancestors will be featured from time to time. Those will be short items similar to the "Northrup" story we ran in April. Anyone interested in submitting material should contact Janet Snyder, 224-4315 or Betty Jane Minsky, Rt. 3, St. Johns, 48879.

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

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



*Happy  
Father's  
Day*

Arlyn Gantz  
Box 535  
DeWitt, MI 48820