



# THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT 1982

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## THE BROWNIE BRIGADE

(This story prepared by Libbie Spoelma)

When America declared war on Germany in 1917 the nation was almost totally unprepared and the cooperation of everyone was needed. Women workers on the homefront were recognized as an important source for labor & plants & factories that had excluded women as employees welcomed them.

The disregard of conventional standards regarding female employees was emphasized by the numerous articles printed in the nation's newspapers. In Nov. 1917 The Lansing State Journal reported on women employed by the Hayes Company of St. Johns. It said "the brown clad girls of the Hayes Motor Wheel Company of St. Johns are styled by their male co-workers in the big plant. The "Brownie Brigade" is composed of about 20 women who have come to the front to do their bit in war time by supplying labor."

Mrs. Mary Crowner, forelady, supervised the Brigade. She was formally a nurse and the first lady to enter the plant.

The story gave a detailed description of the plant's policy pertaining to women employees. Officials explained that "A certain code of ethics is no questionable language to be heard. The presence of women seems to have a softening effect, it meters the thoughtless and unedifying chatter of the manshop.

For most men the invasion of their all male shop was disruptive and management had adjustments to make. Female workers had not been considered when the shop was planned & there were no facilities for them. The kind of work women should be allowed to do and rate of pay were decisions confronting management.

The story said officials resolved their problems and were satisfied with results. General Mgr. A. D. Smith provided restrooms for the Brigade in the office building "where every possible comfort is given them." They had washbowls, towels, soap, locker room & mirrors. "A girl may wear masculine attire but the eternal feminine is still there..." the paper reported. The girls were not exposed to dangerous work and the state law relative to hours was strictly "lived up to." The wages were "generally enough to permit the Hayes girls to live in decency and to dress and still have money for Liberty Bonds or a bit of a bank account."

Most women gave up their jobs when the men came home. They sought more conventional employment or returned to the kitchen or nursery. But as a result of the war effort women were successful in having the Suffragist Amendment passed & in 1920 women got the right to vote. It was a step forward for supporters of equal rights but many attitudes persisted until WWII.



# GENEALOGY

# CALENDAR

## GAZETTE

### "MYSTERY EXPRESS"

THIS PAPER WAS FOUND FOLDED INSIDE THE FARM DIARY OF J. T. DANNIELLS WHO CAME TO ESSEX TWP IN 1868. IT WAS HAND WRITTEN ON A ADAMS EXPRESS CO. WAY BILL...DATED MAY 21st 1865.

#### ROLL OF CO. K 100 OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. W. G. PARKS         | 18. MC KELLISS                  |
| 2. CHARLES BENNETT     | 19. MIRAM STULL                 |
| 3. TAYLOR FULLER       | 20. HENRY SHULTZ                |
| 4. WILLIAM ROGERS      | 21. JOHN SURBECK                |
| 5. JAMES DYMON         | 22. BENJAMIN SMITH              |
| 6. L. WESLEY STONE     | 23. HENRY LONEE                 |
| 7. L. F. SERUARZ(?)    | 24. DANIEL WRIGHT               |
| 8. SANDY S CRYMAGER    | 25. WILLIAM YOUNGS              |
| 9. HERRY ADAMS         | 26. CARLO CALL                  |
| 10. JOHN ERNSPERGER    | 27. SHELDEN WESTOVER            |
| 11. JOHN FOWLER        | 28. E-ANDER (ALEXANDER) DUNNING |
| 12. GEORGE FOWLER      | 29. JOHN SHRIVELY               |
| 13. PETER PLEAGEL      | 30. RUBEN CLOSE                 |
| 14. JAMES MESLET       | 31. NARMON(?) HILL              |
| 15. CHARLEY MESERMAN   | 32. GEORGE MILL                 |
| 16. CHRISTIAN MOOSMAIL | 33. SILVESTER PEASLEY           |
| 17. JOSEPH PEARSON     | 34. HENRY DANSYSON              |

CAN ANYONE HELP IDENTIFY ANY OF THESE SOLDIERS AND WHO WAS ADAMS EXPRESS? THE ABOVE MATERIAL WAS PROVIDED BY AND ABSTRACTED BY WILMA SOWLE A MEMBER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY GENEALOGISTS WRITE P. O. BOX 23 ST JOHNS, MI. 48879.

#### GENEALOGISTS OF THE CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT ANY AND ALL MANUSCRIPTS, DIARIES,

PICTURES, FAMILY HISTORIES AND OTHER GENEALOGICAL

MATERIA



EVERY TUESDAY; Archives open noon to 8 p.m.  
 EVERY WEDNESDAY; PGS Museum open 2 - 8 p.m.  
 EVERY SUNDAY; PGS Museum open 1-5 p.m.  
 EVERY SATURDAY Archives open noon to 4 p.m.

AUG. 2; Genealogy Division meets for potluck picnic at Stuart & Arlene Smith's home on N. French Rd., 3/4 mile W. of US27 on N. side of road at 6:30 p.m. Bring dish to pass, lawn chair & a "new genealogy friend."

AUG. 15; Annual Babcock Car Tour, includes picnic, replaces regular monthly meeting. Meet at Rodney B. Wilson Junior High school parking lot in St. Johns. Bring your family and picnic lunch. We leave the parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

SEPT. 13; Genealogists meet at Central National Bank, St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. with program on using the camera in family research by Charles Coletta.

SEPT. 18 Our Home Tour

PLEASE PRESS THE ABOVE GENERAL INFORMATION  
SONLE A MEMBER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY GENEALOGISTS  
WRITE P. O. BOX 23 ST JOHNS, MI. 48879.

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MATERIAL

PLEASE CONTACT JANET M. SNYDER, CHAIRMAN 224-4315

EVENING FOR P. O. BOX 23, ST. JOHNS, MI. 48879



MAIL ROUTE AND CARRIER CONTRACTS 1892 - 1899 VICTOR TOWNSHIP

MAIL SCHEDULE

April 14, 1892                      Route 37291                      Edwin Warren Sub-contractor

Mail leaves Geary                      Tues., Thurs. & Sat at 11:00 A. M.

Arrives Shepardsville by 2:40 P. M.

Leaves Shepardsville                      Tues., Thurs. & Sat. at 3 P. M.

Arrives Geary by 6:40 P. M.

April 4, 1893                      Route 37291                      Wm. R. Taylor Sub-contractor

From Geary to Shepardsville at the rate of \$170.77 per annum

May 31, 1893                      Route 37291                      Calvin Sexton Sub-contractor

Postmaster General orders service from Geary to Shepardsville be  
increased to six times a week effective June 12, 1893

June 19, 1893                      Route 37291                      Calvin Sexton Sub-contractor

Schedule to take effect at once

SEPT. 13; Genealogists meet  
at Central National  
Bank, St. Johns at  
7:30 p.m. with pro-  
gram on using the  
camera in family  
research by Charles  
Coletta.

SEPT. 18 Our Home Tour

OCT. 1-2 West. Mich. Genealo-  
gy Society of Posts  
Michigan Genealogy  
Councils at Marriott  
in Grand Rapids

CALENDAR KEY

PGS - Paine Gillam Scott Museum  
at 106 S. Maple Street, St.  
Johns

**CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED**

WANTED - Old doctor and medical  
items for a Doctor's Room being  
readied at PGS Museum. Call  
Kathryn Rumbaugh at 224-7402 or  
224-2894 if you have items to  
donate or lend.

WANTED - New members. Invite  
your neighbors, friends and  
relatives to join CCHS. Send  
their name, address and phone  
number to CCHS along with mem-  
bership fee.  
Single member, \$4.  
Family, \$7  
Age 18 & under, \$2

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Arrive Geary by 6:40 P. M.

April 23, 1894    Calvin Sexton Sub-contractor

Postmaster General has established a Post Office by the name of Jessie in the County of Clinton, State of Mich. and appointed Perry St. Clair, Postmaster. This new office is between Victor and Shepardsville, and you will visit it with mail regularly both going and returning etc. (the above material was found in the Sexton Family Papers given to the Genealogists in 1981.)

Michigan Genealogy  
Councils at Marriott  
in Grand Rapids

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**CLASSIFIED CLASSIFIED**

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WANTED - New members. Invite your neighbors, friends and relatives to join CCHS. Send their name, address and phone number to CCHS along with membership fee.

- Single member, \$4.
- Family, \$7
- Age 18 & under, \$2

**QUIZ**  
August is the 8th month but was the \_\_\_th month on the early Roman calendar. Emperor \_\_\_ renamed the month for himself. He lengthened it to 31 days, stealing a day from \_\_\_\_.

# MINI-TOURS

Community Resource Volunteers is sponsoring a series of five mini-tours on Tuesdays which began July 13 from 9:45 to 4 p.m. Ford Ceasar, our immediate past president is leading the tours which include forgotten communities of Clinton. (Ford wrote Forgotten Communities of Central Michigan). Participants will receive a copy of the tour guide CCHS published earlier. Cost is \$6 per trip. Call 224-8285 for details.

QUIZ ANSWERS: 6th month; Emperor Augustus; Sextilis (which means sixth) & February.

## IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAID?

Listed below is a list of members whose dues are paid for 1982. If your name is not on the list, please send your dues now. Also, if friends or relatives are not on the list, please ask them to join. Our success depends on our membership. Dues are \$4 single member; \$7 family and \$2 for those aged 18 and under. O. Abel; K. Altvater; E. Annis; P. Bailey; H. Ballentine; F. Bollinger; A. Bond; E. Bottum; M. Brooks; W & M Brown; D. Carter; J & E Caudy; F & M Ceasar; H. Charvat; M. Chinn; M. Cobb; L. Cochran; K & E Coin; Mrs. R. Conn; C. Cordray; C & E Cowles; E. Crosby; G. Crosby; E. Davis; N. Eagle; R & G Eick; R & G Eirschele; E. Elliott; Mrs. H. Franks; A. Gantz; E & E Geller; B & P Gnodtke; M. Grigg; R. Hamer; J. Holbrook; A. Huhn; C. Huntington; R & L Hyler; M. Ingalls; K & E Johnson; Rae Johnson; V. Jones; S. Karber; Mrs. G. Klisch; Dr. & Mrs. J. Lattimer; A & A Lounds; F. Luther; J. Lynn; P & Cune; J. Martin; Mrs. W. Mead; BJ Minsky; J & B Moore; R & G Moore; A & L Moss; Mr/Mrs M. Muchlenbeck; G & N Myers; R. Nester; M. Olin; S & J Openlander; R. Overholt; R & P Phelps; D & G Phillips; D & N Pope; E. Rademacher; Mr/Mrs. E. Randolph; R & G Rasmussen; C. Richardson; P & R Roof; J & C Rumbaugh; G. Schaefer; A. Schrader; A. Seymour; D & E Smith; S & A Smith; J. Snay; J. Snyder; W. Sowle; G & D Starling; Mr/Mrs E. Studt; T. Teare; J. Temple; J. Thornton; J. Tiedt; C & N Waldron; Mr/Mrs Warren; F. Watt; W & O Watt; V. Matterson; L & R Wesner; B. White; Mr/Mrs. H. Wickes; C & V Willyoung; H. Wiltsee; G. Workman; S. Worrall and Cindy Wycoff.



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

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IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT ?