



"The Clinton Independent"

1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



MARK IT DOWN NOW: CCHS OLD HOME TOUR - VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DEC. 3

HOME TOUR

On December 3, The Clinton County Historical Society will present "Christmas Past, Christmas Present" its 1983 Home Tour Festival. Ten charming St. Johns homes will be showcased in their Christmas finery. The homes range in age from the 1860's to the present. A multitude of other community events will also be available in St. Johns at that time.

A quilt show at the Methodist Church, an arts and crafts fair at the Southpointe Mall, a Flea Market and non-profit groups sale at Rodney B. Wilson Junior High School, Public meals served by the Congregational Church and the Rebeckas, a Door Decorating contest, Lunch with Santa at the municipal building, a sale at "Santa's Celler" in the Central National Bank are among the community events coinciding with the Home Tour

The ten homes to be presented for touring are: the Jack Giesecke home, 205 State Street, a house built in 1874 in the Second Empire Style by John Hicks local merchant and community leader; the Richard Kohls home 208 W. Cass St., of the Carpenter Gothic Style; the John Keenov house 202 W. Cass a wine and upright with Italianate trim and brackets; the

COMING UP

"BRING A FRIEND!"

ARMISTICE
DAY

11
NOVEMBER
11

NOV. 17
We will honor all Veterans of WWI at

our meeting Nov. 17 at Capitol Federal Savings and Loan in St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. Wally Watt, our chairman, has invited all veteran's groups in Clinton to participate but

if any veteran was unintentionally overlooked please accept this as our invitation to come. Veterans may bring uniforms, medals & other memorabilia to share - or just come and socialize with us & other veterans. This year marks the 65th year since WWI ended.

AT PAINE-GILLAM-SCOTT / SEUM

HOURS OPEN: Sundays 1-5 p.m.
Wednesdays 2-8 p.m.

ON DISPLAY NOW: 1890 "Use" special exhibits include a

208 W. Cass St., of the Carpenter Gothic Style; the John Keeney house
202 W. Cal a wing and upright with Italianate trim and bracketing; the
Douglas Peck House, 304 E. Cass, a Victorian cottage dating from the 1860s;
the Charles Huntington House 506 E. McConnell, moved to its present location
to make room for the Methodist Church, this house was once a hotel;
the 1940's brick bungalow of Terri Theriac and Cindy French at 207 E.
McConnell decorated in the "Country" style; the Larry McDiarmid home at 303
South Oakland, was moved to its present location in the 1890s although the house
itself originates from the 1860s; the Anthony Kuntz house at 506 S. Oakland,
is Southern Colonial style and is a large home dating from the 1880s;
the final home is the Douglas Warren house an imposing St. Johns landmark
since its construction in the 1920s. Among its elegant features are windows
with glass made by the Ford Motor Company to be used as windshield glass in
its Model T cars. The original owner of this home was the first Ford
dealer in St. Johns. The Paine-Gillam-Scott House at 106 Maple Street, the
Historical Society Museum and oldest brick house in St. Johns will also be open.

The homes will be open from 11AM to 7PM. Other events will open
at 9AM. In the evening the tour will be conducted by candlelight and
lanterns will light the streets near the tour stops.

Long known as a "home tour with elegance", this year's tour offers
many fine old homes for public viewing. Tickets are \$4.00 the day of
the tour available at the houses, or \$3.00 by pre sale. Tickets will
be available at Mark Roberts, Bennetts, the Bement Library, the Chamber of
Commerce in St. Johns, or by mail from the Historical Society, Box
174, St. Johns, Michigan by sending a self addressed stamped envelope with
remittance.

Wednesdays 2-8 p.m.
ON DISPLAY NOW: 1890 "use" special exhibits include wedding dresses, hands-on quilt blocks for children; displays honoring WWI veterans and other Michigan & Clinton County memorabilia.

HOME TOUR: PGS will be "on tour" Dec. 3 with an open house from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TO THE WOODS: We will go to the woods for greens to decorate PGS Nov. 21. Meet us at PGS and bring clippers and water resistant footwear. We leave at 1:30 p.m.

CEDAR ROPING: Help us make cedar roping for decorating Nov. 26 & 28, 1 p.m. (Last year volunteers made 160 feet.) at PGS.

CCHS DEC 15 MEETING: is at PGS on Maple Street across from the courthouse in St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. with a program by Folklorist Dr. Yvonne Lockwood of MSU's museum.

GROUP TOURS: of PGS are offered. Call 224-2894 or 224-7402.

"VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS": Our Christmas displays will be up from Dec. 3 thru Jan. 4. Come celebrate an old time holiday with us Sundays, 1-5 p.m. & Wednesdays, 2-8 p.m. Special candlelight and music on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., for the holidays.

GENEALOGY EVENTS: See next page.

QUIZ

What product was patented in 1873 which opened up "the west" to farmers and influenced American agricultural practices ever since?



Meet the people

THEY CAME
TO CLINTON COUNTY MICH.



Edward A. Sitts was born in Minden Township, Montgomery County, New York, the 9th day of March 1846. He came to Michigan with his parents as a boy of nine years. They settled on a farm of solid timber in Greenbush Township, where he continued to live until the age of 17. He then enlisted at St. Johns in Company I, 10th Michigan Cavalry. He served continuously with this regiment until honorably discharged at Memphis, Tenn. in December 1865.

He took part in 15 battles and major engagements and was captured by Wheelers Confederate Cavalry August 24, 1864. Later he was paroled and joined his regiment again at Knoxville.

After his discharge Mr. Sitts returned to Clinton County and helped his father clear the homestead until his marriage the 21 February 1849, to Ida Hulbert of Greenbush. They spent all of their married life in or near St. Johns, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary at their home in 1929.

They were parents of three daughters. Mrs. Sitts died in 1930 and Mr. Sitts the 28th of Sept. 1931. He was a past commander and loyal member of Charles E. Grisson G. A. R. Post and one of its last four attending members prior to its disbanding. Mr. & Mrs. Sitts are both buried in Mt. Rest Cemetery in St. Johns, Michigan.

Quiz Answer

Barbed wire patented November 1873.

COMING UP

"BRING A FRIEND!"

The next meeting of the Genealogists will be on Nov. 7 at the Capitol Federal Savings building in St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Ken Coin of DeWitt on the Preservation of Early Photographs. We hope you will bring your old photos that night for copying or will make arrangements for us to recopy your photos at a later date.



MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

ANNOUNCES THE REPRINTING OF

FAMILY TRAILS

Memory Lane

FAMILY TRAILS

MICHIGAN SOURCE MATERIAL

ETHNIC STUDIES IN MICHIGAN

The first issue of *"Family Trails"*, a publication of the Michigan Department of Education, Bureau of Library Services, was published in 1967. Altogether 23 issues were printed over a period of 15 years (1967-1982). Articles of interest by noted genealogists, historians and librarians and original records taken primarily from the Library of Michigan comprise the bulk of the material in the 23 issues. The issues have been reprinted in 5 volumes with editing of dated material. Each volume contains approximately 100 pages with soft cover 8½" x 11".

The Society again has, for a limited time only, the reprinted edition of the 1880 History of Shiawassee and Clinton Counties for only \$37.50. You may send your order to the above address and checks should be made out to the Clinton County Historical Society.

Another good buy in terms of Michigan history is the reprinted edition of Family Trails; 23 editions consolidated into five volumes of about 100 pages each containing in Vol. 1, Michigan Indian Resources, French Canadian Research in Michigan; Roman Catholic Church in Michigan; Early Detroit References; and Irish Pioneers in Michigan. Each volume is \$8 or \$35 for the set, and may be ordered from the Genealogists, Box 23, St. Johns, 48879 or contact Arlene Lounds at 224-7807 for more information.



A TIME FOR REJOICING

Clinton County Historical Society



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