



# "The Clinton Independent"

1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## NEW MAPLE RIVER PROJECT

Duck houses, dykes, marsh land expansion & an osprey platform are included in a 230-acre project at the Maple River State Game Area on US 27 between St. Johns and Ithaca.

The river played an important role in the settling and early life in Clinton and surrounding counties.

The project is sponsored by the newly formed Michigan Wildlife Habit Foundation which is now raising the \$30,000 cost by selling 480 prints of a painting by Andy Kurzmann, a Battle Creek artist, depicting a Heron in the Maple River marsh. The first 230 will be autographed by former Gov. William Milliken and ex-State Rep. Thomas Anderson.

Dubbed the Milli-Ander Project, it's name honors the two men considered important wildlife conservationists in Michigan.

The 230 prints will be sold only through the foundation and will be considered "shares" in the project. Buyers will receive shareholder certificates and lapel pins of the Heron.

Cost is \$130 and the autographed 230 prints are expected to be collector items. They can be purchased only from the Foundation at 2325 S. Cedar, Lansing, Mi. 48910. The remaining 250 unautographed copies will be sold in area art galleries.

Dennis Fijalkowski, foundation executive director, said people not wanting to purchase a print but who want to support the project can send donations to the above address.

Foundation is a unique concept in that it has no members or dues. It's only goal is to bring groups together and marshal forces from existing groups to coordinate.



*Andy Kurzmann's painting of a heron in the Maple River marsh.*

the greatest dearth in Mid-Michigan.

Long ago much of the twisting Maple River and its bordering lowlands were a natural marsh and home for waterfowl, songbirds and fur bearing animals. The Saginaw Trail, an Indian pathway, wound through the game area.

White settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Among them was George Campau who called the river the Riviere du Plain. In 1826 George Campau, a French fur trader, paddled up the river and erected a trading post at Maple Rapids with permission from Chief Makitoquet & the Chippewa tribe. While other traders had passed through Clinton previously, Campau was the first white man to live in Clinton.

In 1976 our Society placed a historical marker at the site in a colorful Bicentennial event with most members garbed in old time costume.

We applaud the Foundation and other groups

that it has no members or dues. It's only goal is to bring groups together and marshall forces from existing groups to coordinate projects and raise money.

Work on the Maple Rapids project began March 20 when volunteers from Capitol Audubon Society and Michigan Duck Hunters converged on the site. Members of the Michigan Trappers Association are also helping.

Conservationists say millions of acres of wetlands have been lost in Michigan with

event with most members garbed in old time costume.

We applaud the Foundation and other groups for undertaking this river project and wish them well.

(By Betty Jane Minsky, newsletter ed.)

### Fowler Publishes History

A book is going to be published soon about the 125th anniversary celebration of Fowler. It details some of the early history up through the celebration last July. It will contain many pictures and numbers over 180 pages. Orders at the pre publication cost of \$15.00 can be forwarded to either of the following: Mrs. Carl Wieber, 558 N. Elm St., Fowler, MI 48835 phone 593-3654 or Miss Janet M. Tiedt, 551 N. Main St., Fowler, MI 48835 phone 593 2287. Cost will be going up after the book is published. Please have checks or money orders made payable to: Fowler History Book and forward it with your name & address & phone number to either of the ladies listed above.

**POTPOURRI** ON THE SICK LIST - We send "Hope You'r Feeling Better" wishes to Esther Rademacher and Elizabeth Cowles  
MOVED: Bill Stoller wants to hear from friends; 2926 E. Osborn Rd., No. 323, Phoenix, Az. 85016.

### In Memoriam

Our sympathy to the families of Glenna Plunkett, Mildred Olin and Mrs. Harley Franks who passed away recently. Mrs. Franks was a descendent of John Swegles, early St. Johns settler after whom the city was named.



### GIFT

I want to remember the PAINÉ - GILLAN - 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:



### CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: I want to support the society but don't buy me to work \_\_\_\_\_. I'll be active so call on me to help \_\_\_\_\_.

CHECK ONE: Single member, \$4 \_\_\_\_\_; family, \$7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Age 18 or under, \$2 \_\_\_\_\_.

MAIL TO: Clinton County Historical Society  
Box 174, St. Johns, Mi. 48879





# Coming Soon



## CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

APRIL 21, 7:30 p.m. Capitol Savings & Loan, St. Johns  
 "The Civil War and Clinton's Involvement in it" presented by the 5th Michigan Battery, a group of sharpshooters who practice the old time craft of muzzleloading. They will bring a canon, old guns and Civil War materials & tell us how they do authentic reenactments.

Also

Election of officers. Nominated to succeed themselves are Betty Moore, president; Charles Coletta, vice president; Janet Tiedt, rec. secretary; Janet Snyder, corres. secretary; and Randy Phelps, treasurer. Two directors will be elected to succeed Hila Bross & Tom Teare. Nominees are Shirley Craner, Ford Ceasar, Dorothy Cressman, Wallace Watt, & Geraldine Workman. (Ceasar's term expires & he is a candidate for re-election.)

## GENEALOGY DIVISION

APRIL 4, 7:30 p.m. Capitol Savings and Loan with election of officers.

APRIL 24, 2-4 p.m. Open House at the Genealogy Collection now in DeWitt Township Hall at 4700 Brook Road, DeWitt.

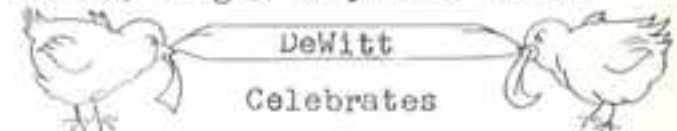
## PAINÉ-GILLAN-SCOTT MUSEUM

- MAY 1 Our annual Magnolia Week begins with special exhibit on Court House Square 1-5 p.m. with Mary Rappuhn demonstrating basket-making.
- MAY 4 2-8 p.m. Magnolia Tea in museum with Rappuhn demonstrating from 2-6 p.m.
- MAY 7 10 a.m. throughout the day, Baked Goods Sale at 10 a.m.; Trash & Treasure Auction at 11.

## MUSEUM MUSINGS

TRASH & TREASURE AUCTION update:  
 Already received - an oak bell organ made by Sewing Machine & Organ Co. of Owosso; child's rolltop desk, treadle sewing machine, dentist cabinet, circa, 1900. We need more old & new items, and bakery. Call Catherine Rumbaugh, 224-7402 or Marie DePond or take items to your township chairman (listed in last month newsletter).

SPECIAL DISPLAYS AT PGS include:  
 Indian artifacts; Bengal Township in Township Room; 7 wedding dresses from 1873-1915; "Egg Art" with goose eggs fashioned with jewels, fabric, hinges only thru May 8.



Peg Guilford was driving along US 27 recently and saw the Historic DeWitt sign with its "founded, Oct. 4, 1833. It dawned on her the town is 150 years old this year and so began plans for a Sesquicentennial Celebration.

A logo-slogan contest will decide the theme; a beard growing contest began in March. April events include a Good Friday service at DeWitt Community Church & Easter Sunrise Service at the high school followed by a community breakfast.

Arbor Day plans include planting a tree at City Hall and there is talk of the city giving out free seedlings.

The celebration runs through October with more news later.

GENEALOGY

POTPOURRI

Starting April 30 new state rules will provide citizens access to death & marriage records on file in county courthouses.

#### QUESTIONS FROM GOLDIE

Goldie Moore wants to know: Who was Date Avery? He was born in Essex Township in 1870. When did he die? Who were his parents?

She also seeks a copy of "Evolution of the Counties in Michigan" published by the Board of Education at Michigan State University. She wants it for the Genealogy Division's Collection Center.

Moore can be contacted at 3623 W. Chadwick Road, DeWitt, Michigan 48820

\*HAVE A HAPPY EASTER\*

NOTARIES PUBLIC. - Below is another batch of notaries for this county appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and whose commissions are now ready at the county clerk's office:  
C Farmer, Ovid; R. E. Davies, Greenbush; A. J. Moss, Maple Rapids; Fred H Clark, Ovid; Adam Beattie, Ovid; Marshal Hand, Wm. F Moore, Robert Young, H. H. Hawley, and A. J. Baldwin, St Johns; Joel S. Wolcott, Essex; N. A. Dryer, Bath; O. A. Lockwood, Watertown; Geo. H. Newton, Maple Rapids; R. L. Hoge, \_\_\_; Jay Sessions, Lebanon; M. S. Moss, Maple Rapids; Henry J Patterson, Macousta; Richard DuBois, Ovid; John B. Howe, Watertown.

ABOVE TAKEN FROM THE CLINTON INDEPENDENT FEB 17 1881 ISSUE

TOMMY HATLEY DID IT. - YESTERDAY MORNING TOMMY HATLEY, NIGHT WATCHMAN IN THE ST. JOHNS MANUFACTURING COMPANY'S WORKS, TOOK AN INCORRECT PEEP AT THE CLOCK AND BLEW THE WHISTLE AT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO SIX INSTEAD OF SEVEN, AS HE SUPPOSED, WHICH CAUSED A GOODLY NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE TO "ROLL OUT" WITH NO LITTLE RELUCTANCE. SOME SUPPOSED IT WAS AN ALARM OF FIRE, WHILE OTHERS THOUGHT IT WAS TIME TO GO TO WORK. SOMEONE, THINKING HE SMELLED A TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION NOT FAR AWAY, RUSHED TO THE FIRE-ENGINE HOUSE AND ATTEMPTED TO SOUND THE ALARM, BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO PRODUCE ANYTHING ABOVE A DEATH-KNELL, AND THIS AGAIN CAUSED THE BEFOGGED PEOPLE, SOME OF WHOM WERE RUNNING HITHER AND THITHER ALMOST OUT OF BREATH, WITH EYES STRETCHED OPEN AND EARS PRICKED FORWARD AS IF THEY EXPECTED TO STEP INTO THE FIRE EVERY MOMENT, TO ASK: "WHERE--WHERE--WHE-WHE'S THE FIRE?" THEN THOSE WHO HAD UNTANGLED THE MYSTERY WOULD SAY: "O, TOMMY HATLEY ONLY HAD ONE EYE OPEN WHEN HE GAZED AT THE CLOCK." THOMAS WILL HAVE BOTH EYES ON IT HEREAFTER...  
CLINTON INDEPENDENT AUGUST 5 1880 ISSUE



## Clinton County Historical Society



P. O. Box 174

Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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DeWitt, Mi 48820

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