



"The Clinton Independent" 1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

At Wacousta

ALUMNI GATHER



When Leon Clark, president of the Wacousta Alumni Association called the meeting to order May 20 it was the 80th gathering of the group. Members are graduates of the former 10-grade Wacousta School which was operated until the district was annexed to the Grand Ledge District in 1957.

The first school house was a frame building erected in 1844. The second, built in 1870, was a two-story building which is believed the first in the area to have housed 10 grades. The ninth and tenth grades were on the upper floor with the first eight grades in the lower part. In 1917 this structure was torn down and much of the lumber used to build a barn near the village.

The third building was a brick structure which housed the 10 grades until it was destroyed by fire in 1924. It was then necessary to hold classes in the Woodman Hall and other places in the community.

By March of 1926 a new structure was ready which also housed all 10 grades until the district was annexed.

That change affected the future membership in the Alumni Association. Although never a large school there were 350 10th grade graduates between 1895 - 1939. And over the years those graduates and their

A JUNE QUIZ



There will be a New Moon June _____ & a Full Moon on June _____. Solstice is June _____. Flag Day is June _____. (Answers on page 2.)

Clinton Roads

A CREDIT TO SETTLERS

Clinton County was a swampy morass of meandering streams and rivers when settlers arrived in the early 1800's. Dud McKean, secretary of the Clinton County Road Commission who spoke at one of our meetings earlier this year, said the straight, uncomplicated road system we now have is a credit to those pioneers who laid out traffic routes to follow points of the compass and not the whims of natural features.

Most roads follow straight north-south and east west lines with one exception, Round Lake Road, which was part of the Grand River Indian Trail. McKean thinks it was "probably just a branch of the trail that criss-crossed the state and followed the Looking Glass River which empties into the Grand River.

He is thankful more roads didn't follow such "natural routes," and said the Road Commission has troubles with Round Lake Road even today because of the many sharp curves in it.

Clinton's first recorded road was the Dexter Trail laid out by Judge Samuel Dexter. Our two

there were 350 10th grade graduates between 1895 - 1939. And over the years those graduates and their spouses continued to assemble for an annual get-together at the Wacousta U. M. Church.

This year's program followed the traditional format with group singing, toasts, special recognition of members celebrating their 50th reunion and a tribute to those who passed on during the year.

(We thank Stuart Openlander, vice-president of the Wacousta Alumni Association, for this story.)

Clinton's first recorded road was the Dexter Trail laid out by Judge Samuel Dexter. Our two earliest "thoroughfares" were Turner Street and DeWitt Roads.

McKean said such roads were important because early communities were founded along early transportation routes, mostly rivers (Maple Rapids and DeWitt) or railroads (Fowler, Ovid, St. Johns and Pewamo). The exception was Westphalia which is not near a river or railroad.

AN OLD NAMING PATTERN

THE FIRST SON WAS NAMED AFTER THE FATHER'S FATHER.

THE SECOND SON AFTER MOTHER'S FATHER.

THE THIRD SON AFTER THE FATHER.

THE FOURTH SON AFTER THE FATHER'S ELDEST BROTHER

THE FIRST DAUGHTER AFTER THE MOTHER'S MOTHER

THE SECOND DAUGHTER AFTER THE FATHER'S MOTHER

THE THIRD DAUGHTER AFTER THE MOTHER.

THE FOURTH DAUGHTER AFTER THE MOTHER'S ELDEST SISTER.



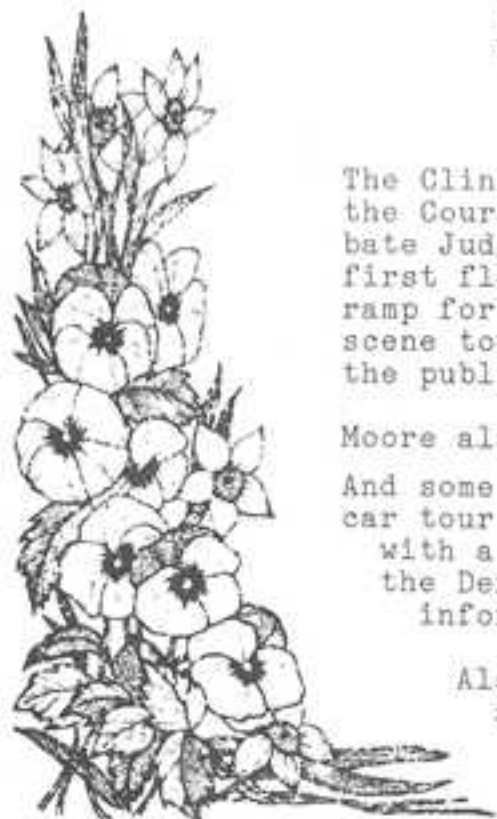
NEWS and NOTES

The Clinton County Historical Society's June meeting will be June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in St. Johns and the program will be a tour of the Courthouse by Probate Judge Marvin Robertson. Members will assemble in the Probate Courtroom on the first floor. Enter via the rear door of the building which includes both steps and a ramp for easy access. President Betty Moore said Judge Robertson will give us a behind-the-scenes tour, pointing out historical features and nooks and crannies not often viewed by the public.

Moore also said there will be no CCHS meetings in July and August.

And some of our popular events are being switched around this year. The Babcock Antique car tour held each August will be moved to DeWitt and held in October in conjunction with a 150th anniversary celebration that community plans then. The tour will follow the Dexter Trail, which is also 150 years old this year. (See story above for more information on the Dexter Trail and its role in Clinton history.)

Also changed is the time of our annual home tour from September to Dec. 3. Moore said the committee was having trouble getting homes because of conflict with football games. The December date means that the street fair and other activities will be moved into Rodney B. Wilson School and the Municipal Building. More details will follow as plans on the Babcock Tour and Home Tour are finalized.



GENEALOGY

GOING GOING GONE

HERE'S WHAT FARMERS SOLD AT AUCTION BACK IN 1840; SLAVES, OXEN, WHISKEY AND POWDER HORN AMONG ITEMS MISSING NOW

D. S. HERRIOTT OF BINGHAM TOWNSHIP, CLIPPED THE FOLLOWING FROM A NEWSPAPER RECENTLY:

AN URBANA MAN HAS A COPY OF A KENTUCKY SALE BILL OF 1840 THAT IS QUITE A PREAK IN THESE DAYS. IT SEEMS THAT A MAN NEAR VERSAILLES, KY., WAS DESIRING TO SELL HIS PERSONAL PROPERTY SO AS TO GO TO OREGON TO RESIDE. THE BILL FOLLOWS: "HAVING SOLD MY FARM AND AM LEAVING FOR OREGON TERRITORY BY OX TEAM, WILL OFFER ON MAR 1, 1840, ALL OX TEAMS EXCEPT TWO TEAMS, BEN AND BUCK, AND TOM AND JERRY. TWO MILK COWS, GRAY MARE AND COLT, ONE PAIR OF OXEN AND YOKE, ONE BABY YOKE, TWO OX CARTS, ONE IRON PLOW WITH WOOD MODE BOARD, 500 TEN-FOOT FENCE RAILS, 60 GALLON SOAP KETTLE, 85 SUGAR TROUGHS MADE OF WHITE ASH LUMBER, TEN GALLONS MAPLE SYRUP, SPINNING WHEELS, 30 POUNDS OF MUTTON TALLOW, LARGE LOOM MADE BY JERRY WILSON, 300 HOOP POLES, 100 SPLIT HOOPS, 100 EMPTY BARRELS, 32 GALLONS JOHNSON MILLER WHISKEY SEVEN YEARS OLD, 20 GALLONS APPLE BRANDY, ONE 40-GALLON COPPER STILL, OAK TAN LEATHER, DOZEN WOODEN PITCH FORKS, HALF INTEREST IN TAN YARD, 32 CALIBRE RIFLE, BULLET MOLD AND POWDER HORN, RIFLE MADE BY BEN MILLER, 50 GALLONS SOFT SOAP, HAMS, BACON AND LARD, 550 GALLONS OF SORGHUM MOLASSES, SIX HEAD OF FOX HOUNDS, ALL SOFT MOUTH EXCEPT ONE.

"AT THE SAME SALE I WILL SELL SIX NEGRO SLAVES, TWO MEN, 35 AND 50 YEAR OLD, TWO BOYS, TWO MOLATTO WENCHES 40 YEARS OLD. WILL SELL ALL TO SAME PARTY AS WILL NOT SEPARATE THEM.

"TERMS OF SALE: CASH IN HAND OR NOTE TO DRAW 4 PER CENT INTEREST, WITH BOB McDONNELL AS SECURITY. PLENTY TO EAT AND DRINK."

COMING UP

Genealogists meet June 6 at 7:00 p.m. at Capitol Savings & Loan in St. Johns for a program

THANK YOU to Doyle Fitzpatrick, Beaver Island, for contributing Volume 6 of the Michigan Pioneer Collection. We still need Volumes 22 - 29 and 31-32 to complete the set. If anyone has "extras" of these volumes, and would like to dispose of them, give the Genealogists a call (Arlene Schrader, 669-3219).

GAZETTE

Quiz Answers

New Moon June 10.
Full Moon June 25.
Solstice, June 21.
Flag Day, June 14.

Book Notes

The Michigan Genealogical Council will sell volumes of "Family Trails" which were published by the Michigan Department of Education from 1967-82. The 23 issues published in that 15-year span focused on ethnic studies in Michigan. The series stopped because of lack of funds. Now the Council will reproduce the series and in a Pre-Publication Sale all five volumes can be obtained for \$35. Or, one volume for \$8. After publication cost will be \$10 per volume. The Clinton Historical Society will get \$1 for each volume we sell. For more information or to purchase books write Genealogy Division, Clinton County Historical Society, Box 23 St. Johns, Mich. 48879.

(This item contributed by Joan Bancroft)

...for 30 days & Loan in
St. Johns for a program
by Janet Snyder on gene-
ealogic research in
New York.

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT?

Help Wanted

Would you like to learn more about Clinton history? What better way than to help others in their family research.

You may think you have little to offer but why not give it a try. You may be pleasantly surprised. Contact Val Coletta or Evangeline Caudy if you are interested.

them, give the Genealogists a call (Arlene Schrader, 669-3219).

NEW CONTRIBUTIONS

J. T. Daniells "Farm Journal" - Diary 1862-1911

J. T. Daniells "Farm Diary" - 1912-1933

State Journal Centennial paper, 1953

National Geographic Atlas of 50 United States"

Plat Map of St. Johns, 1857

Shiawassee County 1850 Mortality Schedule (cards)

Gratiot County Civil War Solders (cards)

1983 DAR Index Supplement

1931 American Advertising Directory

Index of Clinton-Shiawassee Portrait & Biog. (1880)

Flint Gen. Quarterly, 1983, Vol. 25, #1

1910 Federal Census Microfilm, Clinton County

5 rolls, which includes other counties (partial)

Sortin' Yesterdays by Loui Emeline Sanford-Fritz of Gunnisonville, autographed.

Donated by:

Wilma Sowle

"

St. Johns School Library

Wilma Sowle

Wilma Sowle

Janet Snyder

Wilma Sowle

Janet Snyder

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Flint Gen. Society Genealogists

Memorials - complete list of donors

will be forthcoming.

Loui Fritz

THANKS



Clinton County Historical Society



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