



# "The Clinton Independent"

1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Talking About Christmas

No - we aren't celebrating Christmas in July. But just the word conjures up all kinds of cool thoughts and despite the recent heat wave it can cool you off - psychologically. Try it.

Members of the Clinton County Historical Society will be hearing a lot of Christmas talk this summer because our annual home tour has been moved from September to Dec. 3.

President Betty Moore said the Victorian Christmas celebration will include an open house at our PGS Museum and 10 houses will be on the tour. There will be an antique show, quilt show and many other activities.

"Keep that date open. Everyone will be asked to help with this so plan to celebrate Christmas-past with us this year," she said.

Heading up the event are Mark Barber and Larry McDiarmid.

In other upcoming events Betty also reminds use that the Babcock Tour will be held in October this year in conjunction with the DeWitt Sesquicentennial. The date, Oct. 8, so get your old cars and touring costume out. There will be more details on that in next month's newsletter after plans are finalized.

Betty also reports that CCHS will be marking the grave of the wife of Captain David Scott as a tribute to her and to the pioneer spirit of the Scott family.

The dedication of this will be part of the DeWitt Sesquicentennial and there will be more on that later.



## NEWS and NOTES

ANNUAL PICNIC: Pack your picnic basket and come join us for our annual picnic July 28 at 6 p.m. in the park near the library at Maple Rapids. Bring a dish to pass and table service. Beverages will be furnished. Shirley Graner will be our hostess. Please note that this is a change from our regular meeting date. AND, BRING ALONG A FRIEND.



Speaking of friends, our president reminds us that CCHS could use some new members. "There are many people out there who like history and genealogy and who want the kind of things we offer. ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN," Betty urges.

CONDOLENCES: to the family of Elizabeth Cowles who passed away recently. She was one of our hard-working members who helped make CCHS grow. "A lovely woman," Betty Moore said and that's a statement we would all agree with. She had many friends in our group and she will be missed.

We've had a report that Cy Waldron has passed away. Please send condolences to the family.

QUIZ

What village was first settled by Captain David Scott in 1833?  
(Answer on other side.)

# Dr. Caesar does it again

By DAVID THOMAS

Clinton County's best known and possibly most industrious historian has done it again.

Dr. Ford Caesar, author of many local histories, has just completed what may be his most ambitious project. Ten years of research and two years of writing have produced "The Great Northern Ghost"-The Story of the Lansing to St. Johns electric trolley.

The electric railroad traveled from Lansing, through DeWitt and ended up in St. Johns between the early 1900s and 1929.

Caesar is the logical person to write the definitive history of this area's electric railroad, having ridden it as a young man.

"I had relatives up at French's Corners," he remembered. "I would ride the train to St. Johns and then walk out to their place."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The above was snatched from the St. Johns Reminder. More on this on page 2)

# GENEALOGY GAZETTE

## Potpourri

Genealogists plan a membership drive for Sept. & Oct. and everyone is asked to bring a new member to each of those monthly meetings. The Sept. meeting is Sept. 12 to avoid holiday conflict, at Capitol Federal Savings & Loan Community Room in St. Johns. The October meeting will be the first Monday at the Archives in DeWitt.

QUIZ ANSWER: New Albany

QUERRIES: Seek anc. of Mathias Schafer, b. 1818, Westphalia Co., Prussia; & d. Sept. 2, 1874 in Westphalia, Mi. Date?

Also seek anc & data on Katharina (Schueller) Schafer, b 1823, Prussia & d., Apr. 26, 1906. Bur. St. Mary's Church, Westphalia, Mi. Mother of 10 children. Want to share inf with any living desc.

Also seek anc. and inf. on Nicholas Wohlscheid, b, 1823 Westphalia Co., Prussia; d, bef. 1900; Mar. Catherine Pitch.

Also seek inf. on Catherine Pitch Wohlscheid, b., Mar. 1823 Prussia; d. ? in Westphalia, Mi. Immigrated in 1856 with her husband.

Also seek data on Michael

The Genealogists will have a pot luck supper at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 1, at the home of Al & Arlene Lounds, 1887 Yallup Rd, St. Johns. Bring a dish to pass. The beverage, rolls, butter, cake, and table service will be furnished.

There will be a short business meeting, but the program will be a surprise. However, everyone should bring a copy of a completed family group sheet and/or ancestor chart.

The house is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of St. Johns, but turn west at Taft Rd, go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, turn south on County Farm Rd, go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and turn west on Yallup and go .4 mile, to a green & brick house with white trim on the south side of the road. Coming from Lansing you would turn west on Centerline and go to County Farm Rd, turn north  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to Yallup.

Pennsylvania Line, a research guide to Pennsylvania, is a new publication at the Archives. Also the Ashley Centennial book has been donated to the Archives by the author, Milford Cordray, and Motor Wheel Corp. has donated eight stackable file drawers, which were badly needed. The 1910 census for Shiawassee County is on microfilm at the Archives for your viewing as well as all the Clinton County censuses.

### *Is your relative here?*

One of Ford Caesar's goals in writing his history of the electric railroad was to include the names of as many people in Clinton and Ingham counties as possible. He especially wanted readers who were long-time residents of the area to be able to identify

O. B. Swain--A long-time St. Johns resident who was a strong supporter of the railroad.

Henry Volsinet--An East DeWitt resident who

1823, Prussia, d. in  
phali. Mi. Immigrated in  
1856 with her husband.  
Also see data on Michael  
Gross, b. 1824, Prussia &  
his wife, Mary Ann Thelen  
Gross, b. 1834; immigrated  
in 1856. First child, Anna,  
b. 1849 & came with them.

Send inf. on above to:  
Marilyn Schneider, 7140 W.  
Dahlke St., Ludington, Mi.  
49431

The Mich. Genealogical Council  
will sponsor "Canadian  
Research" Sept. 29 at 7:30  
p.m. at The Great Hall,  
Valley Plaza, Midland, Mi.  
The weekend seminar contin-  
ues Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. For  
more inf. call Janet Snyder  
or write Norma Furlo, 5437  
Mangus, Beaverton, Mi.  
48612.

the electric railroad w  
to include the names of as  
many people in Clinton and Ingham counties as  
possible. He especiall wanted readers who were  
long-time residents of ) areas to be able to identify  
the names of relatives and family friends who played  
an important part in the Lansing to St. Johns electric  
railway.

Below are just a few Clinton County people found  
in Dr. Caesar's book. Is one of them your relative?

**George Yallop**--A Bingham Township farmer who  
sold a right-of-way to the railroad for construction.

**Hiram M. High**--A state senator from Ovid, High  
supported legislation providing for the interchange of  
freight cars between steam and electric railroads.

**H. E. Walbridge**--A St. Johns attorney who played  
an important role in negotiations between railroad  
and land owners.

**Charles M. Merrill**--Clinton County Probate Judge  
in the early 1900s.

(Also snitched from the

was a strong supporter of the railroad.

**Henry Voisinet**--An East DeWitt resident who  
worked as a laborer on the electric way.

**LaMott G. Bates**--An Elsie merchant.

**John Bailey**--A St. Johns orchard owner.

**James Lambie**--A Lebanon Township farmer.

**Theodore Townsend**--Clinton County Commis-  
sioner of Schools.

**C. H. Gardner**--A St. Johns motorman on the  
Lansing-St. Johns line.

**S. M. Stilson**--St. Johns Village Clerk.

**Morris T. Streeter**--A St. Johns real estate agent.

**John Hicks**--A St. Johns businessman and presi-  
dent of the St. Johns National Bank.  
St. Johns Reminder)



## Clinton County Historical Society



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