



"The Clinton Independent"

1983

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



All Eyes Are On DeWitt

One day Peg Guilford, who bought the DeWitt Hardware with her husband, Robert, in 1980, was driving along and saw the sign that says "Welcome to Historic DeWitt" and the notation the town was founded Oct. 4, 1833. Peg said it dawned on her right then that 1983 would be DeWitt's 150th birthday.

That's how DeWitt's Sesquicentennial Celebration began.

And, you guessed it - Peg was named chairperson.

Last spring a logo and slogan contest was held; men began growing their beards long when word went out that anyone appearing clean shaven after March 17 would have little chance to win the longest beard contest come Oct. 6.

On Good Friday Easter Sunrise Service was held at the DeWitt High School; a tree was planted at City Hall on Arbor Day; there was a special Memorial Day Parade; a July 16 Sports Day; a sesquicentennial parade was held in August during the town's annual Ox Roast and an Indian Pow Wow is planned for this month.

The biggie starts Oct. 4 when the 150th birthday will officially be celebrated. A pageant is being written which Guilford says will embroider

A remarkable story.

According to The Lansing State Journal Clinton County grew by two square miles in the past four decades.

As Reporter John Albright told it "Mid-Michigan gained 22 square miles but it was all on paper. The land itself was there all along. Sandstone and coal formations below the soils of Lansing and other communities in the region have been in place for 150 million years."

But, Albright reported, the U. S. Census Bureau in 1980 overhauled land area tallies for the first time since 1940 and found a lot of old mapping and calculation errors.

The upshot of that, he said, was that some states had a lot more turf than had been figured. Like, 4,592 extra square miles for Alaska and 311 for Michigan. Some states shrank - are you ready for this - Texas was one and it got shaved by 531 square miles, he said.

In Mid-Michigan Eaton had the most growth, picking up eight miles. Gratiot grew by six; & Clinton, Ionia, & Livingston Counties by two; & Ingham and Shiawassee each gained one mile.

Who wulda thunk it ????

Thomas Hatley obituary story
continued from opposite side:

Secretary D. S. French and Supt. T. C. Beach headed the procession of about 80 employees on foot. Even their...

The biggie starts Oct. 4 when the 150th birthday will officially celebrated. A pageant is being written which Guilford says will embroider fact with fiction to make the performance more interesting.

Earlier the Clinton County Historical Society decided to postpone the Babcock (auto) Tour until October to be part of the DeWitt festivities. That is set for Oct. 8 so get out your old cars and touring costumes.

Guilford has released the following dates for special events: Oct 5, the pageant; Oct. 6, contest day including the beard contest, costume contest, and other fun stuff like oldest living couple, etc. Oct. 7 is set for a bluegrass band concert and candlelight ceremony in Riverside Park; Oct. 8 is the home tour, chicken barbeque and fireworks.

History will be made then because it will mark the first time fireworks were ever held in DeWitt.

The 37th DeWitt Ox Roast was held in August with the longest parade in the event's history. Other activities included a 10-kilometer run, art fair, carnival, canoe rides, bingo, food and beer tents, kiddie zoo, frog jumping contest, tractor pull, rock concert and an art exhibit.

That exciting event should serve as a good omen for things to come when the Sesquicentennial erupts in full force come October.



Genealogy Division meets Sept. 12 at Capitol Savings & Loan in St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. for program by Charles Hulse of Flint on early auto owners in Clinton. The October meeting will be the first Monday at the archives in DeWitt.

CCHS general membership meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at DeWitt Memorial Building with program on DeWitt's Sesquicentennial plans.

Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. we will mark the grave of Mrs. David Scott at DeWitt Cemetery & hold a ceremony at the cemetery then.

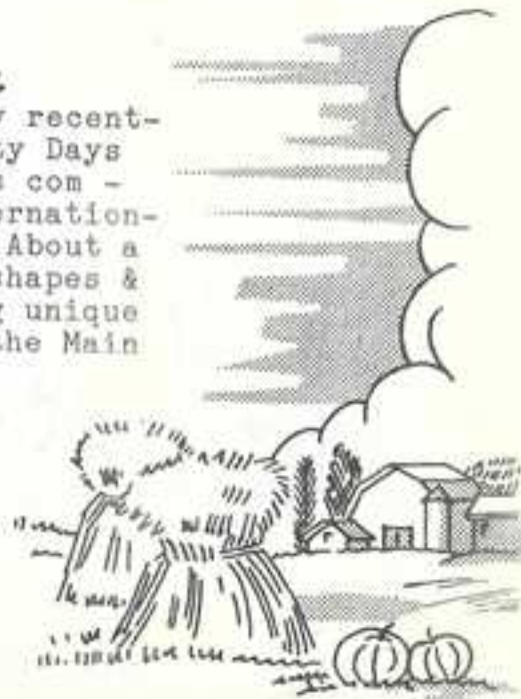
Secretary D. S. French and Supt. T. C. Beach headed the procession of about 80 employees on foot. From their members, paulbearers and a choir of male voices were chosen. Here was indeed a great chance for a profitable and effectual sermon. The deceased was insured in this perfect and valuable association for \$100 which will go to defray his funeral expenses. Rev. G. S. Northrup preached the sermon and the interment made in St. Johns cemetery.

In writing Hulse also shared with us this recollection of when he lived in St. Johns as a child: "When I was a lad in St. Johns I well remember how they blew the steam whistle at the Hayes Motor Wheel Plant, formerly the St. Johns Mfg. Co., to celebrate the end of World War II.

REV'ED UP TUBS....

Bath made history recently with its Community Days Celebration that was complete with the "International Bath Tub Race." About a dozen tubs in all shapes & sizes - all boasting unique decor - raced down the Main Street after shove-offs by team pushers. Gravity took them the rest of the way down the hill.

We congratulate Bath on its ingenuity and creativity.



GENEALOGY

GAZETTE

Pot-pourri

REGISTER OF....

ELECTORS FOR GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP, CLINTON CO., 1863 continued:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Reg.</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Russell, Adam	April		
Rowell, Stephen	25 Oct.		
Richmond, Layton	10 Mar 1862		Sec. 19
Richmond, F.M.	5 Apr 1862		
Roberts, J.	5 Apr 1862	(R)	
Reed, G. W.	5 Apr 1862		Sec. 29
Smith, Henry	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 2
	(REMARKS; 9 yrs. in town.)		
Silverc, Richard	4 Apr 1859	(D)	Sec. 17
	(REMARKS; 5 yrs. in town)		
Sevy, Edmond T.	4 Apr 1859	(R)	Greenbush Village
	(REMARKS; 3 yrs in town)		
Smoke, Isaac	4 Apr 1859	(R)	Sec. 25
	(REMARKS; 3 yrs in town)		
Spooner, Nathan	4 Apr 1859		Greenbush Village
	(REMARKS; 2 yrs in town)		
Scott, William	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 10
Shook, John	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 19
	(REMARKS; 5 mos. in town)		
Sherwood, William	4 Apr 1859	(D)	Sec. 10
	(REMARKS; 8 yrs. in town)		
Smith, Hervey R.	4 Apr 1859	(R)	Sec. 35
	(REMARKS; 7 mos. in town)		
Stephens, Phillip	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 28
	(REMARKS 2 yrs in town)		
Spayd, George	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 10
	(REMARKS: 4 yrs. in town)		
Sherwood, Isiah B.	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 10
	(REMARKS; 8 yrs in town)		
Spayd } euben	4 Apr 1859		Sec. 10
	(REMARKS; 4 yrs in town)		
Spayd } illiam M.	4 Apr 1859	(R)	Sec. 2
	(REMARKS; 4 yrs in town)		

1903



CHARLES E. HULSE
2513 THOMAS STREET
FLINT, MICHIGAN — 48504

HULSE TO SPEAK

Charles Hulse of Flint will tell us about early autoists in Clinton at our Sept. 12 meeting at Capital Savings & Loan in St. Johns at 7:30 p.m.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Last April we received a letter from Charles stating an earlier story about Tommy Hatley interested him as Hatley was his great-grandfather. He said the name was later spelled Hatley and he enclosed a news clip of Hatley's obit. We re-print it here from the 1/28/1892 St. Johns Independent)

Thomas Hatley, Sr., died at his home in this village on Sunday, Jan. 24, 1892, from the effects of a strain, aged 64 years. The deceased was an Irishman by birth, and had been a resident of St. Johns during the past 27 years and was up to 16 years ago in the employ of the D.G.H. & M.R. at this station and since which time he has been in the employ of the St. Johns Manufacturing Co., doing night watching the principal portion of the time. For the last few years he had been assigned the work of running the elevator and in keeping with his Irish wit, which is ever

Spayd William M. (REMARKS; 4 yrs in town) Sec. 10
 4 Apr 1859 (R) Se 2
 (REMARKS; 4 yrs in town.)

Stiles, N. T. NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 13
 Shaw, Upton (REMARKS; 5 yrs in town)

Spayd, Henry R. Sec. 10
 Styles, Eben B. Sec. 32-33
 Scofield, W. William (R)
 Stiles, James Sec. 19
 (REMARKS; 20 yrs in town)

Sevy, David NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 23
 (REMARKS; 20 yrs in town)

Sevy, Ozi B. W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 22
 (REMARKS; 20 yrs in town)

Shaw, Joseph	31 Mar 1860		Sec. 13
Shaw, Samuel	31 Mar 1860		Sec. 13
Smith, William	31 Mar 1860		Sec. 18
Spayd, Abram	31 Mar 1860	(R)	Sec. 10
Spayd, Wilson	31 Mar 1860	(R)	Sec. 10
Starks, George R.	Aug 1860	(R)	
Stiles, L. W.	23 Oct 1860	(R)	
Sitts, James	23 Oct 1860		
Scofield, William N.	21 Oct 1860	(R)	
Stevens, Edwin	2 Nov 1860		

For the last few years he had been assigned the work of running the elevator and in keeping with his Irish wit, which was ever ready and made him popular with "the boys" he remarked as he ascended with the elevator the last time before his confinement at home; "I am going up for keeps this time." Sure enough, he never ascended or descended on the elevator again.

Everybody knew "Tommy" well and friendly, as he always had some good word for you as he passed by. His funeral took place from the Baptist Church Tuesday morning and was conducted by members of the St. Johns Manufacturing Company's Mutual Accident Ass'n. 94 employees and members of which were in attendance. The works shut down to give these members and coworkers an opportunity of thus paying this tribute of respect to their dead brother, which was done in a befitting and tangible manner.

(continued on page 1)



Clinton County Historical Society



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