



# "The Clinton Independent"

## 1984

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Led by Ford Ceasar we sang "Happy Birthday To Us" when we celebrated our 10th birthday Feb. 16 in the Municipal Building in St. Johns. It was in that auditorium that CCHS was formed a decade ago.

Earl Anderson, son of the late Clyde Anderson, carried in the flag just as Clyde had at our first meeting. And we penned our names into the century-old Pioneer Society membership book just as the charter members did a decade ago.

CCHS Newsletter editor Betty Jane Minsky gave a check for \$1,752.99. Previously the late Hila Bross gave us \$4,000. Minsky said that - along with a \$600 donation made earlier to be used as seed money for committees starting new book projects - totals \$6,352.99 in profits from the 1980 history book project. President Betty Moore pitched in a penny to round that off to \$6,353. Our thanks to the committee for completing that project. Included were Moore, Bross, Minsky and the late Bertha Light, Joan Bancroft, Helen Crum, Ken Coin, Alice Jumper and Jean Martin.

The party was a time for recalling successes and failures. Unfortunately the octagonal school or round school house near Fowler was much talked about through the years but never restored. Minsky and Gale Foerch expressed interest in continuing. Does anyone have any ideas on how that building could be moved to Fowler and restored? If so, contact Foerch.

Waldron displayed scrapbooks she has kept of CCHS activities. A good resource aid. Thanks, Nina.

Charles Coletta presented Mildred Countryman with a certificate honoring her sister and our founder, the late Hila Bross, for sparkplugging not only the society but also the archives and museum. Mrs. Countryman donated it to Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

Ford Ceasar read excerpts from minutes of CCHS 10 years ago which revealed that after forming we got off to a quick start. Within months we had \$86 in the kitty; that grew to \$1,000 by year's end. Our officers that year were Doug Carpenter (now in Florida) and Robert Barnes, president and vice president, respectively.

Committee reports indicate we have been busy. Jean Temple's oral history committee is making tapes of county residents, preserving their experiences and recollections; Ken Coin's committee is researching historic sites and restoration. Arlene Lounds, genealogy chairman, said her group is microfilming and indexing all kinds of newspapers and records.

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SCUTTLEBUTT FROM MEMBERS

# SCUTTLEBUTT FROM MEMBERS

As we str ) our second decade we thought it might be nice to keep our members in touch. We'd li' ) to hear from ) all members who live outside of Clinton Co ) ty. Let us know where you are living, and ) hat you are doing. Every few months we'll publish a column of chit-chat from members. (see address below)

**DEADLINE:** Committees or chairpersons sending information for the newsletter should have copy to Betty Jane Minsky, Rt. 3, St. Johns, Mi. 48879 by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Because we cannot guarantee we will be mailing newsletters by the first week of each month, PLEASE send information on the upcoming TWO MEETINGS. That way we can include two months of meetings in each newsletter and not risk having a meeting left out because the letter didn't reach members in time.

## Spotlight:

For the next few months our spotlight will be on Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum which opens March 11 after a winter hiatus. Hours will be Sundays from 1-5 p.m. and Wednesdays, 2-8 p.m. Catherine Rumbaugh requests trash and treasure donations for the 3rd annual Trash 'n Treasure Auction which wraps up our Magnolia Festival each May. She also needs people to help with that project. Anyone with time may call her. She said storage space is available for "trash" people need to dispose of before May.

"NO NEWS, NO DUES" If those words are circled with red this will be your last newsletter unless you remit dues within next month. Use coupon below.

CLIP AND MAIL, WITH YOUR CHECK, TO: Clinton County Historical Society, Box 174, St. Johns, Mi. 48879

Check One -

Enclosed is my dues, \$4, for 1984. (For individual members)

Enclosed is our dues, \$7, for 1984. (For couples)

Enclosed is 1984 dues \_\_\_\_\_ (\$4 for individual or \$7 for couple) plus a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use the extra money: (Check one) As you see fit \_\_\_\_\_

For PGS Museum \_\_\_\_\_

For the Archives \_\_\_\_\_



I get courtesy copies. Thanks a lot but I'd like to be a dues-paying member. Here's my check.

NAME:

Street, city, state (and don't forget your zip-code):

# GENEALOGY

# GAZETTE

In addition to the historical and genealogical material at the county Archives which is owned by the society, individual members often loan their personal research material to the Archives.

One such book is "Vermont, Heads of Families, First Census of the United States, 1790". It contains a 13" x 17" map of Vermont, showing counties, townships, and topography.

The first census act was signed by President Washington on March 1, 1790, designating the marshalls of the various judicial districts to enumerate the people. The results showed a total U.S. population of 3,929,214. At that time there were only twelve states in the Union. Maine was part of Massachusetts; Alabama and Mississippi were parts of Georgia; and Kentucky was part of Virginia. The Northwest Territory included present day states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota. Tennessee was part of North Carolina.

The Louisiana Purchase was not made for more than 10 years after the first census. It included today's Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, the Indian Territory, Nebraska, S. Dakota, N. Dakota, Montana, and most of Wyoming, Colorado, and Minnesota. The capitol of the U.S. was Philadelphia and New York was the largest city with 33,131 people.

Transportation was by horseback or stagecoach, there were few roads, almost no bridges, and much wilderness. Town and county boundaries were not clearly defined and many people distrusted the reasons behind the census. Add these problems to the informal recording methods and lack of instructions to the marshalls and you will begin to see the monumental task faced by the enumerators.

The book gives the number of persons in each of the twelve states and summarizes the number of persons in Vermont by county and town. Then each head of family is named indicating county and town of residence, the number of free white males 16 years and up, the number of free white males under 16, free white females and all other free people. There were no slaves in Vermont in 1790. At the end of the book is an alphabetical index of all heads of families in Vermont.

If you had ancestors in Vermont you might like to visit the Archives located in the DeWitt Township Office Building, one block east and one block south of the US-27-State Rd. intersection, and take a look at this book.



by Arlene Lounds

## THANK YOU

THANKS CONTINUED; Mr. & Mrs. Dee Allen of Maple Rapids; Norine Cheeseman of Novi; Margaret Chinn of Royal Oak; G. Klish of Saginaw; Mr. & Mrs. Herman Geller of Westphalia; all of Michigan. And from E. Annis of Iutsen, Minn. & Dr. John Lattimer of New York City.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO THE ARCHIVES: Mr. & Mrs. Winchell Brown, CHS, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Phelps, Janet M. Snyder & Mr. & Mrs. Charles Coletta of St. Johns; Arlyn Gantz of DeWitt; Wilma Sawie of Lansing.

NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE: ( ) Gertrude Foster Tejada ( ) E. Lanning and Eric Sanchera of St. Johns.

One of the latest donations to the Archives is a book called "Reminiscences of George LaBar, the Centenarian of Monroe Co. Pennsylvania." When the book was written in 1869, Mr. LaBar was in his one hundred and seventh year and still chopping his own firewood.

In 1730, three LaBarre brothers (as the name was then spelled) came to this country from France. They were Charles, Abraham, and Peter, George's grandfather. George's father was also named George and the book covers a considerable bit of the elder George's life, also.

Young George, called "Curly George" to differentiate from all the other Georges in the family, was born in Mt. Bethel, Northampton County, Pennsylvania in 1763, one of a large family of children. The book covers the history of this region, the Great Indian Walk, Indian troubles in the 1750s and 60s, the Whiskey Rebellion, touches on the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. It goes into some detail on the life of the two Georges, but does not give the names of their children or their wives. The author estimates that in 1869 the living progeny of the original three Frenchmen numbers about 7,200 people! Unfortunately, he doesn't name many of them.

The book does list some of the early settlers of the Forks region, including surnames Bossard, Clark, DePui, DeVore, Kuntz, Foster, Hauser, Countryman, Meyers, Shoemaker, Van Etten, Van Vliet, and many others. The women whom the original three brothers married were all of German parentage.

## A Quote to Live By

Each day fortells the next  
If one could read the signs;  
Today is the progenitor of

THANKS TO THOSE WHO GAVE MONEY TO CCHS IN JANUARY: Clinton Bank & Trust, City of St. Johns, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Motz; Jane Sanchera, Mildred Countryman, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Upton, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Rasmussen, Mrs. F.B. Corn, all of St. Johns;

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Locher, ( ) as Swiss, Rosemary Nester of DeWitt.

Margaret Faegle of Dearborn Heights; Mrs. E.M. Dickerson of E. Lansing; Helen Wiltsee of Elsie; C.E. Hulse of Flint; Roma Novak & Tom Holland of Grand Rap. Charlene R. Gordon of Lansing.

NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE: Guerite Foster Tejada of E. Lansing and Jane Sanchez of St. Johns. (hi. note: Jane is our Clinton County Clerk)

(Thanks to Janet Stry for compiling this)

if one could read the signs; Today is the progenitor of Tomorrow.

John Burroughs, 1900

## Come and Enjoy

**GENEALOGISTS:** Meet March 5, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Savings Community Room, St. Johns, program on "Care & Preservation of Family Photos" by Douglas Elbinger.

April 2, 7:30 p.m. at Archives in DeWitt. Election of officers & Wilma Sowle will demonstrate proper use of microfilm reader.

Archives in DeWitt Township Hall are open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (If more volunteer staff were available we could also stay open on Saturdays. Call if you can help.)

### CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

meets March 22 (not March 15 as originally set) at Capitol Savings & Loan at St. Johns at 7:30 p.m. with program by folklore specialist Yvonne Lockwood of Ann Arbor, Michigan.



**PAINE- GILLAM - SCOTT MUSEUM;** Reopens March 11 after winter hiatus. Hours are Sundays, 1-5 p.m. & Wednesdays, 2-8 p.m.

Needed is "trash & treasure" for 3rd annual Trash 'n Treasure Sale which ends our annual Magnolia Festival each spring.

TRASH 'n TREASURE AUCTION May 5.



## Clinton County Historical Society



P. O. Box 171  
Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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