

# "The Clinton Independent"



1985

CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## 7th annual "VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS"

Your Clinton County Historical Society Spotlight is on Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum this month where old-time holiday activities begin Dec. 1 and end Jan. 2.

As in the past PGS will be decorated with holiday greens "hailed from the swamp" and a cedar tree, which is what early pioneer settlers used for their Christmas trees when settling here, will be brimming with old time trims.

A full schedule of PGS activities is listed on the green flyer enclosed.

See you there.....



## AT ST. JOHNS... VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PLANNED

As 1985 draws to a close CCHS is working with John Caudy, memorial co-chair, and Dave Miller, Mt. Rest Cemetery manager, to raise \$3,200 for a Veteran's Memorial to be placed at the cemetery next spring. A foundation was laid this fall. The existing memorial was erected to honor "Volunteers of the Union" and the planned marker will honor veterans of all wars.

Donations can be sent to:  
Veteran's Memorial Fund, c/o  
Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns,  
Mich. 48879

Merry Christmas

# Meet the people

## Who Came To Clinton County . . .



### CLINTON COUNTY PIONEERS WHO DIED BETWEEN June 10, 1889 & June 12, 1890

John Haire	Duplain	June 10, 1889	69 years
Samuel L. Ackley	St. Johns	June 15, 1889	75 years
John H. Patterson	Bengal	Aug. 1, 1889	74 years
Franklin Smith	Watertown	Aug. 9, 1889	-----
Jasper Brown	Olive	Aug. 1, 1889	74 years
Mrs. Catherine Sherwood	Lebanon	Aug. 14, 1889	-----
Rev. Wm. T. Baldwin	Lebanon	Oct. 1889	-----
A. J. Halstead	Greenbush	Oct. 1889	68 years
Mac Robert Webster	Maple Rapids	Nov. 11, 1889	-----
Mrs. Mary Warren	Essexville	Nov. 22, 1889	71 years
Dr. L. W. Fasquell	St. Johns	Nov. 29, 1889	61 years
Pter Vanvlick	Palo	Dec. 29, 1889	68 years
Mrs. G. C. Joslyn	St. Johns	Jan. 30, 1890	55 years
Moses D. Brown	St. Johns	Feb. 1, 1890	54 years
David Sevey	Greenbush	Feb. 8, 1890	85 years
Mrs. L. Millicent Jason	St. Johns	Feb. 8, 1890	78 years
Christian Baker	Ovid	Mar. 1, 1890	62 years
Ezekial Niles	Eagle	May 8, 1890	73 years
Mrs. Alzina Hyde	Watertown	May 3, 1890	70 years
Mrs. Sarah A. Sage	Bingham	May 6, 1890	-----
Mrs. Susan A. Harper	-----	May 8, 1890	43 years
Mrs. Jacob Snyder	-----	May 4, 1890	70 years
Marvin Brown	Duplain	May 17, 1890	60 years
Lyman Swaggert	Bengal	May 3, 1890	97 years
Mrs. Sarah D. Holly	Bath	May 25, 1890	54 years
Mrs. Lydia A. Sowle	Maple Rapids	May 25, 1890	-----
Augustus D. Griswold	-----	May 29, 1890	66 years
George W. Parks	Dallas	--- -- 1890	55 years
Mrs. Mary L. Gillson	Eureka	--- -- 1890	68 years
Frederic Miller	Dallas	--- -- 1890	76 years
John Jones	Riley	--- -- 1890	86 years

(Submitted by Janet Snyder)

# Bath beats plows to Christmas tree



Bath Township's "official" Christmas tree is now in James Couzens Park having just barely been saved from machines clearing a path for I-69 near there.

The living 20-foot white spruce was transplanted near the park gazebo and was one of 11 trees rescued so far by residents who are "adopting" the trees to save them.

In the unique project private citizens are paying \$35 per tree to have them planted, most between the sidewalk and street in front of their homes. The township is paying the balance.

Of the 19 trees which township officials arranged to "adopt" from the state's right-of-way, were a purple plum and red maple planted in the right-of-way at Clark/Webster Roads which folks call the "crossroads" of the town.

The Christmas tree in the park will be lit in a 6:30 p.m. ceremony Dec. 6 and that will be followed by caroling. Last year townsfolk began holding an annual "Caroling" night at the park. This is the third year a manger scene will be displayed at the gazebo there.

## in the news

At Bath townsfolk were "waiting for a miracle" recently at the Bath United Methodist Church. Erected over 100 years ago, and rebuilt after the 1927 school explosion, parishioners say the miracle happened - over \$20,000 was pledged to restore the church. Included will be a firmer foundation with a new fellowship hall. Church officials said the \$20,000 along with a \$40,000 building fund is enough to continue the work.

Historical records the church was built in the 1860's for about \$3,000 but it suffered severe damage from the school explosion. It was located next to school and part of the restoration then included enlarging the structure as a memor-

Halley's comet, visible through telescopes since 1982 on its return orbit toward the sun can be seen now with binoculars and astronomers say it is brighter than expected.

To find the comet look for a group of faint stars named "Pleiades," about 4 degrees above the eastern horizon at sunset. The comet will gradually brighten and move lower in the sky as January nears.

The comet is named for Edmund Haley who was born near London on Nov. 8, 1686 and who computed the comet's orbit in 1682.

The comet is believed to be a "dirty ball of dust and ice" which astronomers say is travelling 54,000 mph. It is 78 million miles from Earth and 166 million miles from the sun.



Look for Halley's Comet high in the southern sky at sunset, gradually brightening and moving lower in the sky through January.

Happy New Year

## in the news

(Notes from CCHS Bd. of Dir. meeting 11/14/85 from Dorothy Cressman, Rec.Sec)

**OATLEY HOUSE:** Cost to move the small doctor's office adjacent to Paine-Gillam Scott Museum, and to put it on a foundation, is estimated at \$8,264. We will await opinion from the Clinton Co. Board of Commissioners before taking action.

**NEEDED;** Volunteer guides at PGS Museum at Christmas activities. Call Catherine Rumbaugh at 224-2894 or 224-7402.



After the Civil War patriotic fervor was high and small flags were popular Christmas tree trim.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CCHS MONTHLY MEETING:** Open House at PGS Dec. 19 7:30 p.m. Speaker is Susan Collins of Marshall, new president of Michigan Historical Society. This is our annual cookie exchange.

**PAINE-GILLAM-SCOTT:** Special programs and hours during December. See green flyer enclosed for all PGS activities.

**GENEALOGY:** No information available on upcoming meeting.

**ARCHIVES:** DeWitt Township Hall  
4700 Brook Road  
Mon-Wed: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Dr. Paine and PGS**  
(Submitted by Catherine Rumbaugh)

John W. Paine purchased two lots in St. Johns in 1858 and in 1860 he built the house on one lot and the first brick store on the other. (Both are on Maple Street across from the courthouse there). Hence we honor him; the doctor who remodeled it; and the last residential owner - in the name of our museum: Paine-Gillam-Scott. Last year students touring the facility at Christmas time sang Happy Birthday to the house. This year, at our Dec. 19th CCHS Open House, the membership will sing it too. Then Alfred and Frances Nelson will entertain at the organ and Euphonium.



Clinton County  
Historical Society

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