



1985

## FDR thank-you note given to museum

By **BETTY JANE MINSKY**  
Lansing State Journal

A World War I-era letter written by Franklin D. Roosevelt on May 10, 1918, thanking the donor of a pair of binoculars, has found a home at the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum in St. Johns.



**Allison**

response to the Navy's call for "bi-  
noculars, telescopes and spyg-

lasses," which Roosevelt said were needed in the "prosecution of naval operations until victory is won."

FDR wrote that at the end of the war efforts would be made to return items Americans were lending.

Catherine Rumbaugh, co-director of the museum, said it appears the letter was typed by FDR himself because it bears no secretary's initials.

"He was just an assistant then," she said of the man who would serve as president during World War II. "He probably didn't have a secretary until many years later."

Laurita Allison, of St. Johns, said her father-in-law's binoculars indeed were returned when the war ended. Her son, Charles Wil-

liams Allison, who lives in Clovis, Pa., now has them.

Allison said she knew FDR's letter was "in the attic all these years." Recently she decided go through the old family things and distribute them to people or groups who would find them meaningful.

She also gave PGS a picture of Allison in uniform about the time he donated the binoculars.

"He wasn't in the Army," she said. "He served with the YMCA in France. They helped restore the war-torn devastated areas."

FDR's letter to her father-in-law ended: "And I hope you will feel compensated for any evidence of wear by the knowledge you have supplied 'Eyes for the Navy' during this trying period."

## beautiful memory...

By Ford Ceasar

Frank Bishop and I had been to the Charity Islands in 1932. The two islands are in the mouth of Saginaw Bay. We had seen thousands of Common terns at the larger island, the Big Charity. There were other species of water birds - gulls, terns and ducks - but the Common Tern prevailed.

Back in St. Johns, we shared our excitement with the Rev. Lawrence Ward and he immediately thought what a great thing it would be to go to the Charities the next year at nesting time, before the young terns could leave their nests. We spent the winter planning.

Spring '33 finally arrived. School was out (Frank and I were both teachers). We had included a youth from Freeland in our plans, a very likeable chap. I cannot recall his first name, but we wanted the Empey lad along because of his countless abilities. He was a naturalist, excellent marksman and with broad powerful shoulders and arms he could climb most any tree.

He had been afflicted much of his life with imperfect legs which left him a cripple.

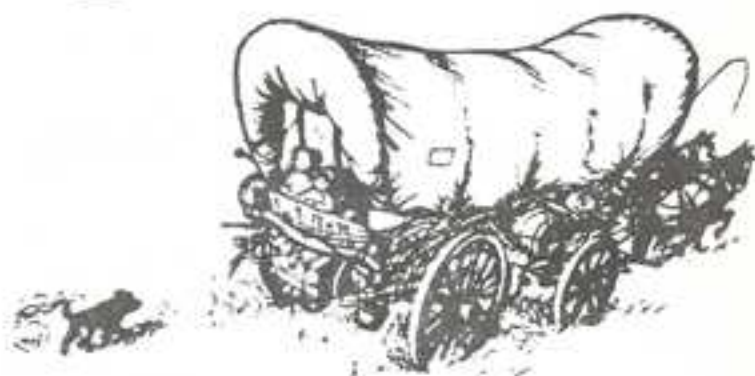
We drove to the fishing village of Bay Port on Saginaw Bay, set up our pup tents, had a lunch-supper and decided to stroll about town before turning in for the night.

Continued - last page

# GENEALOGY GAZETTE

## Meet the people

### Who Came To Clinton County . . .



#### THREE SCORE AND TEN

THE NOBLE OLD PIONEERS OF CLINTON COUNTY....THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED THE ALLOTTED THREE SCORE AND TEN YEARS THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE NAMES OF RESIDENTS OF THIS COUNTY WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGES OF 70 AND UPWARDS, AS APPEARS FROM THE CENSUS REPORTS...ABSTRACTED FROM CLINTON INDEPENDENT 5th AUGUST 1880 ISSUE.

#### GREENBUSH

Wm. Bancroft	71	Jacob Martin	72
Nancy Brown	78	Mary A. Miller	70
Acheah M. Doty	75	Harie Martin	72
Isaac Eagle	74	Lucius Morton	79
Jane Eagle	73	Nathan Matthews	72
Leander J. Forbs	76	Elizabeth Matthews	71
Wm. Face	78	Michael Miller	72
Mary Hurst	79	John Patterson	76
James Hiscock	83	George Rosencranc	70
Solomon Helt	70	Charles Ransom	70
Luther Ingersoll	77	James Letts	72
Rebecca Koons	79	Elizabeth Tinklepaugh	80
Hannah Keiser	90	Sarah Yaple	77
Gersham P. Mattoon	74		

#### Note:

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS A EXCELLENT RESEARCH TOOL AS IT GIVES APPROXIMATE YEAR OF BIRTH...PRIOR TO OFFICIAL BIRTH RECORDS IN COUNTY COURT HOUSES.

MORE TO FOLLOW.....J. SNYDER



# Lansing Branch Genealogy Library

Tel. No.  
332-2932

P.O. Box 801  
East Lansing,  
48823

## HOURS:

TUESDAY ----- 10:00 AM ----- 9:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY --- 10:00 AM ----- 9:00 PM  
THURSDAY ---- 10:00 AM ----- 9:00 PM  
SATURDAY ---- 10:00 AM ----- 2:00 PM



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARCHIVES: Open Monday through Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DeWitt Township Hall.

GENEALOGISTS: Meet June 3

PGS MUSEUM: Hours are;  
Wednesdays 2-8 p.m.  
Sundays 1-5 p.m.

CCHS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP: No information available at press time on June meeting

### Our Genealogy Family Tree 1985-86

Catherine Reed, chairperson  
Joan Bancroft, vice chairperson  
Evangeline Caudy, treasurer  
Maralyse Brooks, secretary  
Janet Snyder, corresponding sec'y.

## Book Notes



New Material at the Archives...

We thank everyone who  
donated these materials.

Heminger Family History

Index "First Land Owners of Shiawassie Co" purchased by Genealogists  
Teachers records of Bingham Twp. School 1918 - 1944 partial 1945-1965 entire records

9th Annual Valley Farms School Year Book 1951

History Books:

"Incredible Seney" by Lewis Reimann

"The Loon Feather" by Iola Fuller

"Soo Canal" By Wm. Rategan

"I Rode With Stonewall" by H. Douglas

"Inside U.S.A." by John Gunther

Newsweek History of Our Times 1951 1949

"Rogers" Rangers & the French & Indian War by Bradford Smith

"Makers of the Americas" by Lansing & Chase

"Maine A Guide Down Est" by workers of Federal Writers project of the W.P.A. for the State of Maine.

Also a fire extinguisher as been donated to the Archives

Beautiful Memory...

(continued from page one)

We had put up our tents in a small city park, By buttoning the fronts together the tents were joined into one big tent. We had just bedded down when we were aroused by the raucous sounds of band instruments tuning up. We didn't get any sleep until the festivities were over and the bandsmen had gone.

At dawn we were at the dock in the gray mist, somewhat bleary eyed, to board a fishing boat we had engaged to take us out to the Big Charity. We were told that out in the bay the water was rough; we might want to use a vacated lighthouse for refuge. They gave us several fine wall-eyed pike fresh from their nets and dropped us off on the lee-side of the island.

The wind was blowing so hard we could not put up the tents so we decided to use the lighthouse.

The terns were there, their nests were so thick on the ground it was almost impossible to step without walking on them. We were a week too early.

The wind blew unmercifully. When the fishing boat arrived to pick us up I wasn't sure we wanted to get aboard. We pushed off towards Bay Port, the waves running easily eight feet high. I honestly believe some were 12 feet. At one moment that little fishing boat would be riding the crest of an enormous wave and we could see white-caps in every direction. After a brief pause and a wrenching of the boat, we dropped to the bottom of a trough with a thud - almost enough to disengage one's bowels.

The only place where I could be free from nausea was to ride in the bow. Every wave that we broke left me soaking wet.

Lawrence Ward had a miserable experience. Once I saw him on his knees in the cabin, bent over a fish box. His countenance was greenish-white; his moans were such that I'm sure he did not care whether the boat made it or not.

We made it. And now there's only Frank and me to relive that experience.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CCHS members with memories to share may send them to Betty Jane Minsky, Rt.3, St.Johns, Mi. 48879

## FATHERS DAY!



## Clinton County Historical Society

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Saint Johns, Michigan 48879

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