

Clinton County Historical Society

CELEBRATING

50 Years

CCHS 50th Anniversary News

Volume 1 Issue 2

March 2024

CCHS Celebrates Anniversary Date



On Feb. 28, CCHS members and local officials gathered at the depot in St. Johns to commemorate the exact day 50 years ago when the founders of the society met to organize and prepare Clinton County for America's bicentennial celebration of 1976.

Kelly Jurman welcomed those attending and introduced Jeremy Blatt. He offered anniversary congratulations and read the Wilson biography which had recently been entered into *The Congressional Record*. Lynne Gregory, President of the CCHS, gave a brief history of the organization, and Jan Seperic recalled that the idea of a historical society was first explored during a meeting at her house.

Orrin & Luvina Wilson

Orrin & Luvina Wilson were honored during Black History Month by Elissa Slotkin, Rep. of the 7th Michigan Congressional District, when she read their biography into *The Congressional Record* on Feb. 7, 2024. The video and transcript of that event is on the CCHS oral history webpage [Wilson Oral History](#). The Wilsons lived in St. Johns as upstanding citizens from about 1868 – 1928.

The Museum had an exhibit that included a trunk of Dr. Gillam's. Alice Murphy displayed her assembly of many newspaper articles of the society's early days. Birthday cake, an array of cookies, and punch was enjoyed by the approximately 65 people present. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success.

Early Settler Certificates

VOLUNTEERS are vital to our existence. Rowlan Smith has volunteered at the Archives for over 17 years.

Lately he has been verifying data submitted by a family historian who has applied for eleven Early Settler Certificates.

To qualify for an Early Settler Certificate the applicant must directly descend from an ancestor who settled in Clinton County prior to 31 December 1865. You can download the application form on the [CCHS website](#).



Lynne Gregory Presenting CCHS History

Save the Date 5/1/2024 11am-2pm

CCHS Archives Refurbished



106 Maple St., St. Johns 48879
CCHistoricalMuseum.org

Drive by the Museum complex to see the high-wheel bicycle monument in the front yard. Dedicated on October 1, 2022, it was built by metal artist, Ivan Iler, and underwritten by the children of William and Rosemary (Eaton) McCarthy. The sculpture represents the St. Johns Bicycle Band, a unique group of local musicians who performed in parades and shows in the 1880s. You can [view the dedication ceremony here](#).

Kroger Rewards

Did you know that every time you shop at Kroger you can be donating to the Clinton County Historical Museum Paine-Gillam-Scott House at no additional cost to you!

If you go to: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> sign into your Kroger card and choose DQ655 for the Clinton County Historical Society, Kroger will donate a portion of their proceeds to the Museum. Doesn't cost you anything, but helps out the Museum!

Notice

This monthly newsletter is meant to publicize the existence and activities of the CCHS to the general public.

It does not replace *Clinton County Trails*, the quarterly publication sent to dues paying members.



16101 Brook Road, Lansing 48906
<https://opennet.us/cchs>

It was party time at the Archives on Feb 13, 2024. An open house celebrated the refurbishing done to the room during January. Painting, new countertop, curtains, and other touch-ups have made the area brighter and more inviting. Julie and Chuck Peters, Mike Mory, and Rowlan Smith moved materials from place to place as required to accommodate Kevin Bradley, Joe Gomez, and Tony Chapko of DeWitt Charter Township who did the painting.



Open House attendees checking out the improvements.

