



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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Clinton County Trails

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



1920 PICTURE POST CARD

The following penny post cards are from a collection
belonging to my mother, who collected them just after the

turn of the century when penny post cards became popular, because for a penny they could be sent anywhere. They served many purposes. Christmas and other holiday greetings went through the mail as well as birthday wishes. Post cards served as a communication between sweethearts, for all the world to read, at least the postal handlers. They were often coded with "You know who" when the resistance to spread a little gossip without revealing the source or subject. Photographs of cities, villages and landmarks re-create history for us and were popular among travelers, to be sent or kept as a mementos, much the same as today. Babies and children were often subjects. Cartoon characters become popular during WWI and religious subjects,



I wish you a Christmas
so pleasant and gay.
You'll be sorry that
Christmas lasts only one day.

CHRISTMAS BABIES, 1920



HAPPY NEW YEAR, 1914

although not in the beginning, became popular around the turn of the century.

My favorites were the family portraits. And of course, the messages which were written are wonderful genealogical treasures. I am thankful to my mother, my grand-mother and my great-grandmother for saving all of the family correspondence, capturing the little everyday happenings which help me know something about the characters of those grandparents I never knew personally. I hope my children will be as happy to receive them as I was.

Arlene Smith ☺

