



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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Clinton County Trails

Published Quarterly, December 1996

Volume 11, Number 4

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MT. REST CEMETERY INDEX PUBLISHED

The book "Mt. Rest Cemetery Burials From 1855 - 1995" has been published by the Genealogists and is for sale. It contains 10,669 burials, alphabetically listed by surname.

Information includes surname and given name of the deceased as well as birth date, death date, burial date, section & lot number. Also included is a title (when available.) The title helps to connect husband & wife or parent & child.

A brief orientation of the cemetery, as well as a map of each section gives you a general location of each burial.

The book is spiral bound and sells for \$15. An order blank is included in this newsletter. Add \$4.25 to cover mailing costs or copies may be picked up at the Archives. For the convenience of those in or around St. Johns, copies are available by calling Arlene Smith, 224-3675.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with this project. A special thanks to **Dave Miller**, sexton of the cemetery, who graciously allowed us to set up shop in the office, along with several computers, to abstract the records.

Thanks to **Mark Van Auken** of Capitol City Blueprint, who printed cemetery maps for us to take into the cemetery when we read the tombstones. His ancestors are buried in the Bunday family vault.

Thirty-one members and friends of the Clinton County Historical Society helped, either by extracting records, reading tombstones, helping to in-put information into computer files, and proofing the copy. It took a while, but we did it! ☺

CLINTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

A community hospital in Clinton County was first considered at a meeting on 12 January 1926, and an informal organization was set up to explore the idea. About 50 people attended the next meeting on 12 April 1926 at which time the investigating committee's recommendations were approved.

A subscription and educational campaign began in May, reaching both village and rural areas. A construction contract was let in 1926, and during 1927 individuals and societies volunteered to furnish rooms and various departments.

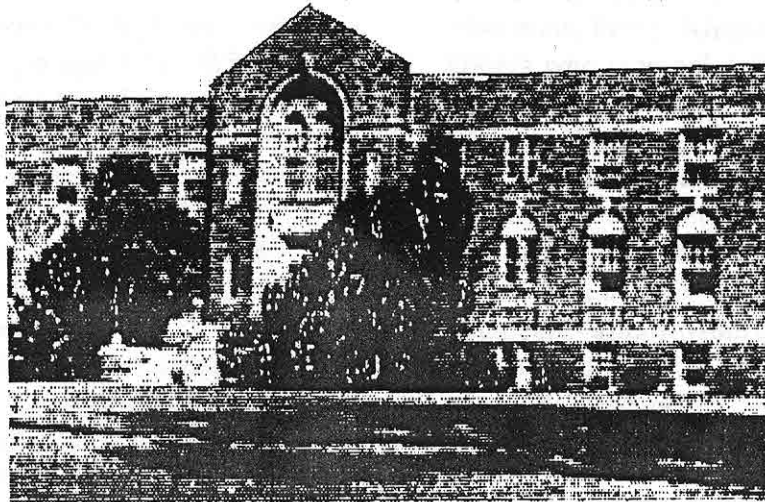
On Armistice Day, 11 Nov 1927, Clinton Memorial Hospital was dedicated to honor the veterans of all American wars. Items edited from The Clinton Republican:

25 August 1927

MEN & TEAMS MAKE DIRT FLY

Seventeen Bengal farmers with ten teams and one St. Johns man with his team made the dirt fly at the Clinton Memorial Hospital grounds Wednesday. Grading started Monday when **Charles Bishop**, who lives on Mead Street and **C.R. Estes**, who lives on the **Hartman** farm just north of town, broke ground. A complete survey had been made by the Clinton County Road Commission engineers, and **Clayton Jones** supervised the work. Wednesday the Bengal delegation, headed by **Chauncey Shaffley** and **Fred Knight**, together with Mr. Bishop, made up a big gang and when five o'clock came the grade in front of the new institution began to take shape. The grade in front of the building slopes gently toward Oakland Street, the street grade line being

determined by several large elm trees directly in front of the entrance. From the center, the grade will slope away north and south, and the entrance and exit driveways will be nearly down to the Oakland Street grade. The walk in the center leading to the front entrance will be built with several steps to the street level. The grade will be made so that people driving on Oakland Street and pedestrians can get a fine view of the



grounds. A good old-fashioned "filling" dinner was served at noon to the volunteer Bengal men on the **Frank J. Ward** lawn. The Misses **Sue and Mable Durkee, Kate Le Vanseler, Mrs. Eva Spaulding** and **Mrs. Frank J. Ward** were the committee from the Woman's Auxiliary who served.

During the afternoon it was found desirable to remove several Lombard poplar trees from the south driveway entrance. **Cal Rice** and **Schuller Marshall** made the trip to the Rice farm and secured a quantity of dynamite, and the trees were neatly uprooted.

Those from Bengal who furnished teams were: **C.L. Shaffley, Fred Carmack, C.M. Rice, A.H. Blakeslee, E.E. Sturgis, Oral Rice, Tim Cressman, Otto Jacobs, and Fay Williams**. Other men who helped were: **Frank Rice, J.A. Mosher, Floyd Rice, Fred Knight, Will Ellerbrock, Leroy Pope, Ralph Crowley, and A.B. Phillips**.

1 September 1927

47 VOLUNTEERS WORK ON GRADE

During the past week 27 teams and 47 men have joined the volunteers who are putting the grounds around Clinton Memorial Hospital in fine shape. The grade in front of the building and on the south end is practically established, and much of the filling has been done on the east side. There is still need for about 20 days' work with teams and extra men on the east side. When that has been completed, one or two teams a day with spike-tooth drags and light graders will put the finishing touches on the grounds and have them ready for seeding this fall.

"By George, I'm glad I came," said **Will Kissane**, Wednesday, as he with others completed inspection of the new building. "I didn't realize what a complete institution you were building here." Similar expressions were heard from members of each delegation during the week. Each noon after dinner the men made an inspection of the building.

Those who were grading Friday were: **Ross Brooks, M.E. Simpson, George Cain, Carl Hecht** and **Ernest Stevens** with their teams. Others who helped were **Oral Simpson, William Althouse** and **C.L. Rising**.

The Olive crowd came Monday morning and made great progress on the south end and east side of the building. A knoll lying to the southeast of the building along the grade of the proposed Lansing, St. Johns and St. Louis railroad of thirty years ago was cut down to a level of the surrounding land and used to complete the grade of the south driveway. Those from Olive who came with teams were: **Almond Cressman, Harold Sonier, Peter Schafer, William O. Fox, Will Purvis, George Cooper, Jesse Winslow, John Reed, Willis Walker, Howard Plowman, and Bert Chant**. Others who helped holding plows and scrapers were: **Fred Hammond, Glen Pearson, Delbert Ennest, Frank Jones, Leon Ennest, Ed Cressman, Clyde Pearson, Harold Plowman, and Joe Geller**.

Orbie Cleland and his gang from Greenbush raised a cloud of dust around the new building on Tuesday. **Robert Marshall** of St. Johns joined

the "bee" and drove team all day, and at dinner time, **S.L. Marshall** ate with his old neighbors. **George Judd**, too, sneaked in on the feed and paid well for his "eats" by telling the crowd funny stories.

Those who brought teams from Greenbush were: **Don Baldwin, Harry Rosekrans, Ernest Wakefield, Orbie Cleland, Lloyd Sherman, Percy Kingsbury** and **Guy Smith**. Others who manipulated the scraper and plow handles were: **Lewis Cox, T. Whitford, June Stevens, Ed Fleagle** and **Robert Marshall**.

The fire at the **C.M. Rice** farm Wednesday morning prevented some of those who planned to come Wednesday helping. Four teams and six men with the help of engineer **Nathan Moore** contributed the work however. Several members of the building committee had dinner with the men at the **Ward** home, including **Father Peek** of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Those who came with teams were: **Will Kissane, Carl Harris, Chris Eisler** and **Alton Carroll** with **Ernest Henning's** team. Others who helped were **Byron Kissane** and **John Eisler**.

7 November 1929

FOWLER ROOM: When the Clinton Memorial Hospital was built, the Fowler people took a bedroom to be furnished and to be called "The Fowler Room." **Mrs. Dr. Schemer** and myself conducted the drive. We had it all subscribed and more too. The collections were postponed on account of the sickness of **Mrs. Schemer** until times made it hard to collect the last few dollars, so I decided to sell tickets to raise this money.

I talked with **H. Lewis George**, and he gave me a bargain on a cedar chest, donated a pair of feather pillows and took 25 tickets to sell. **Mrs. Ann MacPherson Eisler** and myself sold the rest. The tickets were drawn at **George's Furniture Store** October 25, **Peter Edinger** holding the lucky number. After expenses were paid, I handed \$70 to the hospital which more than paid our debt. I thank all who so cheerfully helped. **Mrs. W.W. Kinley**. ☺

