



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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ARCHIVES RECEIVES GIFT

The Archives became the recipient of a generous gift in the form of a state of the art computer. It was given by the estate of C. Lawrence Feightling and will give us the capability to store information for easy retrieval and reading material that is out there in the form of CD's. It will also make record-keeping easier for the staff. It has the option of a modem when we are ready to go on-line.

Now we have a big job ahead of us to get our information transferred into computer files. Anyone wishing to help with this should contact Myrna and set up a time to work on this project. We are open four days a week and could schedule certain hours each week for several people to work. If you have computer skills, or if you have just typing skills, we need your help to input this information. Please schedule time to help us.

We also need donations to build our CD library. CD's are available through several companies and include everything from census and land records to veterans records and social security index. This is the first time we have ask for donations in the form of money for the Archives. Please help us build a CD library. ☺

1998 MEMBERSHIPS DUE

Membership dues are due January 1, 1998 for the current year. To be sure your membership is current, check the label on the mailer page of this newsletter. The label will show the date your dues end.

Annual dues to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are \$10 single and \$15 per couple. Membership includes the quarterly newsletter, "Clinton County Trails," a publication of the Genealogy Committee. Checks should be made payable to the Clinton County Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879.

HISTORIES

Featured in this issue are family histories which were submitted ca 1993 for a proposed supplement to the 1980 Clinton County History book. These papers are on file at the archives. (See Clinton Co. Trails, Vol. 12, No. 1.)

NEIL E. EPKEY

by Joyce Epkey

Neil E. Epkey was born June 2, 1941, the youngest of six siblings, to Frederick and Mary Louise (Light) Epkey in Clinton County, MI. When Neil was born, the Epkey family resided on a farm one mile north and one mile east of Fowler, presently the Sylvester Martin farm. In Nov. of 1943 they purchased a farm one and one-half miles north of Fowler on Wright Road where Neil and his family presently reside.

Neil attended Fowler Public Schools and graduated from Fowler High School. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fowler. In July of 1963 Neil purchased the family farm and has operated it since.

On Oct. 1, 1966, Neil married Joyce Wirth (b Dec 10, 1942) at Most Holy Trinity Church in Fowler. Joyce is the fourth of six children of Louis & Esther (Platte) Wirth of Fowler. Neil and Joyce are the parents of one son and three daughters:

Dale M. (b July 6, 1967) attended Most Holy Trinity and Fowler Public Schools and graduated from Ferris State University in 1990 in the criminal justice program. Since 1990 Dale has been a public safety officer (policeman/fireman) for the city of Kalamazoo, MI.

Kimberly S. (b Nov 26, 1968), also attended Most Holy Trinity and Fowler Public Schools. Kim graduated from Central Michigan University in 1991 with a degree in accounting. She has been an accountant with

the Coca Cola Bottling Company in Lansing since 1992. On Sept. 10, 1994, she married Joseph M. Simon, son of Marvin and Carol (Pung) Simon. Joe and Kim reside at 10854 E. Fifth Street in Fowler. Joe farms with his father and brother.

Kerry L. was born Jan. 26, 1973. She attended Lansing Community College and graduated from Ferris State University in 1994 in the nursing program. Presently she is an RN for Rivendell Psychiatric Hospital in St. Johns. She is engaged to marry Ryan D. Irrer on Oct. 28, 1995. He is the son of Dale and Elaine (Hufnagel) Irrer of Fowler. Ryan presently attends G.M.I. in Flint.

Karmen J. was born Oct 4, 1976, and attends Fowler High School. She will graduate in 1995. She participates in cross country and field and track at Fowler High.

Neil and Joyce and their family have lived in the Fowler area their entire life. Farming has always been a part of their life.



LOUIS G. WIRTH

by Joyce Epkey

Louis George Wirth was the third child of Arthur and Clara (Wieber) Wirth. He was born Apr. 27, 1910, in a log cabin in section 17 on Jason Road one-half mile east of Wacousta Road in Riley Twp. His father, Adam Arthur Wirth was the son of George and Elizabeth (Trierweiler) Wirth. His mother was the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Herres) Wieber. As a child Louis attended Boughton School in Riley Twp. and later on St. Mary's School in Westphalia. About 1920 his family moved to a farm in section 23 on Pioneer Road near Westphalia.

On October 12, 1935, Louis married Esther Platte, the daughter of John and Mary (Bertram) Platte. Esther's father was

the son of **Ferdinand and Marie (Snitgen) Platte**. Her mother was the daughter of **Michael and Maria (Kloekner) Bertram**. Esther grew up on a farm one-half mile south of Westphalia. She attended St. Mary's School and after eighth grade worked in homes in Lansing doing housework. She also worked at a factory in Portland before she was married. Louis and Esther are the parents of six children.

Maynard Wirth was born Sept. 27, 1937, in Lansing, MI. He married **Mary Ann Martin** on June 20, 1959. They are the parents of nine children: **Carol, David, Bruce, Beth, Paula, Tina, Andrea, Randy** and **Sarah**. Maynard farms and works at Federal Mogul Corp. in St. Johns.

Gladys was born Sept. 8, 1939, and she married **Robert Halfmann** on Sept. 26, 1959. Three children were born to Gladys and Bob: **Laurie, Kelly, and Karen**. Gladys died June 22, 1979, of cancer, age 39. Bob married **Donna (Witt) Feldpausch** on July 19, 1980. Donna has two children: **Debra and Dave Feldpausch**. Bob and Donna reside in Fowler.

Grace was born Aug. 28, 1941, and is married to **LeRoy George**. They are the parents of six children: **Sandra, Lynette, Kathy, LeAnn, Amy, and Craig**. Grace and LeRoy live on a small farm just west of Fowler.

Joyce was born Dec. 10, 1942. She is married to **Neil Epkey** and they are the parents of four children: **Dale, Kimberly, Kerry, and Karmen**. Neil and Joyce reside on a farm one and one-half miles north of Fowler.

Mark was born Oct. 22, 1944, and is married to **Harleen Adams**. They are the parents of three boys: **Thomas, Paul, and Michael**. Mark works at Sealed Power Corporation in St. Johns, and they reside on a farm south of Fowler on Taft Rd.

Mary Lou was born July 24, 1947, and is married to **Steven A. Thelen**. They are the parents of five children: **Julie, Lisa, Brian, Dean, and John**. They reside on a farm south of Fowler on Jason Rd.

The first two years of their marriage Louis and Esther lived in Lansing and Louis worked at Fisher Body. In 1938 they purchased an 80-acre farm in Lebanon Twp. Later more land was purchased totaling 200 acres. They resided on the farm until 1967 when they moved to a home in Fowler at 800 N. Wright Road. Louis suffered a stroke on Sept. 17, 1988. After treatment and physical therapy he lived at home for a time. On Mar. 27, 1990, Louis entered Hazel Findlay Country Manor and has been a resident there since. Esther resides at their home in Fowler. ☺

GEORGE AND MARGARET (MC DOUGALL) WILKIE by **Claribel R. Mayers**

Mother, **Margaret (McDougal) Wilkie**, died in Glasgow, Lanark Co., Scotland, and then father, **George Wilkie**, brought his three children to Canada. Birth dates for parents probably would be around 1810 to 1815. Their three children:

- **Daniel Judson** (Aug. 20, 1835 - July 7 1924) married **Elizabeth Catherine McKay**.

- **George** (May 10, 1841 - Apr. 10, 1910) married **Louise Scott**, and they lived in Hamilton, Ont.

- **Maggie** went back to Canada, and met **Charles Fallus** whom she married. They ran a pharmacy in Hamilton, Ont.

The death certificate for **Daniel Judson Wilkie** is recorded in the court house in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Daniel was born Aug. 30, 1835, in Scotland and died in Coe Twp., Isabella Co., MI, on July 7, 1924. Daniel was

