



Genealogists of the
Clinton County Historical Society

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Clinton County Trails

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Arlene (Conley) Smith
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ELSIE HIGH SCHOOL 1914 & 1915
Photographs from Paine-Gillam- Scott Museum
Please See page 27 for identification.

GRADUATES OF ELSIE HIGH SCHOOL

*deceased probably by 1907

1887

Hulda Eddy-Elliott
Maud Doyle-Dennis
Charles Gruver
Maurice Lewis
Dede Sickels-Rankin
George Sexton*
Hattie Tillotson*
Leon Tyler

1889

Nettie Doyle
Bert Wooley

1890

Ruby Eddy*
Anna Finch-Ingham
Raymon Harmon
John Mount
Roy Way

1891

Mabel Chase-Wooley
Kate Page
Maude Mecomber-Tyler

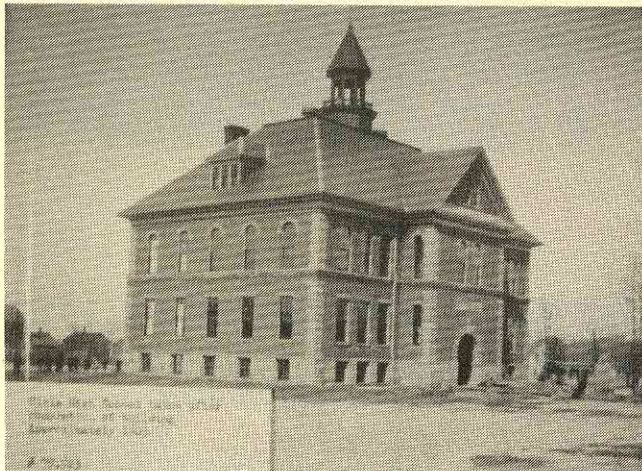
1892

Ruby Holcomb-Dunham
Oscar Garrett

1893

Nancy Raymond
Miles Vincent
Dwight Smith
Earl Rice
Ellsworth Holmes
Mae Hambleton

**Elsie High School taken after
completion of building, apx. 1903.
(Museum No. 79.523)**



1894

Addie Bayley
Irene Sickels-Brubaker
Mima Johnson
Clare Bates
Blanche McQuiston
Maud Morse-Skinner

1895

Ruby Settrington
Zora Waltz-Buckingham
Edith Rummell-Pearce
Hattie Temple
Eva Sinman-Wiltsie
Retta Woodard-Bates
Clara Harmon
Jennie Peck-Sheldon

1896

Clyde Bates
Archie Wooley
Ernest Heinze
Herbert Lewis

1897

Harry Rice
Mae Fleming
Willie Vincent
Lena Jarvis-Carter
Lottie Pearce-Chase
Ernest Knight
Leroy Lawerson
Amy Cobb
Ella Sinman-Ferguson
Maude Snelling-Downey

1898

Glenn Peck
Winnie Payne
Elgin Woodard-Rice

This data was copied from an undated, unidentified paper, but was probably a page from a school booklet

GRADUATES OF ELSIE HIGH SCHOOL

deceased probably by 1907

1899

Robert Payne
Libbie Peck-Emmert
Lewis Murray
Frank Steinbower
Etta Kelley-Brainard
Minnie Jarvis-VanDeusen
Orrin Brainard
Mabel Emery

1900

Clarence Carter

1901

Nellie Woodard
Edna Hills-Fuller
Lulu Knight
Mae Cobb
Judson Wooll
Floyd Letts*
Francis Cobb
Bion Bates

1902

Pearl Schaible
Loa Carter
Harry Bennett
Williard Peterson
William Payne
Elsie Crell

1903

Lida Carter
Will Brainard
Edith Travis
Seeley Finch
Earl Chamberlain
Clark Galehouse
Fanny Anderson-Schultz

1904

Eva Bates-Huntoon
Donnah Lee
Lizzie Rumbraugh-Hess
Dora Nooney-Lowry
Loyd Craven
Alberta Chase
Ernest Woodard

Laura Peck
Vera Taylor
Ina Caswell*

1905

Ethel Burdette
Hazel Chase
Henrietta Phelps
Nina Boone
Fred Tillotson

1906

Hazel Dicken
Fern Wooley
Blanche Settrington
Fern Davis
Harry Dicken
Grace Fox
Lena Gibson-Pierce
Lela Tabor
Clifton Jones
Jennie Gilson

Photos on the front page--

top Elsie High School class of 1914.
L-R Back Row—Bessie Dunham,
Velma Hughson, Jones?, Mary Sawyer,
Gladys Goodrich Purvis (Harry),
Carolyn Hayes Godreau. Middle—Irma
Hubbard, Ruth Bates Orev, Marie
Buckingham, Eva Sawyer. (one name
missing) Front—Milo Maynard, Clio
Domer, Clifford Dunham. (Museum No.
83.14)

bottom Elsie High School Class of
1915. L-R Back Row—Vera Williams,
Neva Kirby, Ruth Steadman Lusk, -?-,
Jeanita Sebring, Helen Wooley Fry, Eva
Curtis Libey. Middle---?-, Elmer Day
Park Watson, Howard Curtis, Mozzel
Sowersby. Front—Martin VanDeusen,
George Libey, Minty Hath. (Museum
#83.15)

FAMILY HISTORIES

Featured here are family histories which were submitted ca 1993 for a proposed supplement to the 1980 Clinton County History book. (See *Clinton Co. Trails*, Vol. 12, #1.) **Shirley E. (Mrazek) VanVleet** wrote the histories in this issue.

GARY and SHIRLEY VAN VLEET

Gary Allan VanVleet married **Shirley Ellen Mrazek**, daughter of **Louis** and **Edna Mrazek** of Rochester Colony (Greenbush Twp.) on 20 June 1953. They were both graduates of Rodney B. Wilson High School. Shirley was the homecoming queen of the class of 1953.

They resided in Virginia Beach, VA, from June 1953 through May 1956 while Gary served in the US Navy at Oceana, VA. He was a photographer in an air squadron attached to an aircraft carrier. After his honorable discharge in May 1956, they returned to St. Johns, MI, and built a home on a portion of the family farm on Price Road, Olive Twp. where they lived for over 30 years.

Gary and Shirley had two sons: **Gary Stephen "Steve,"** born May 9, 1956, at Virginia Beach, Norfolk, VA, and **Jeffrey Allan "Jeff,"** born at St. Johns, Aug. 8, 1960. They attended the one-room Merrihew School on Price Road, the fourth generation of VanVleets to do so. Both boys were very active in 4-H in many project areas and each achieved the Outstanding 4-H Boy award in their last year as members. Steve and Jeff are both graduates of the St. Johns High School. Steve attended MSU and Jeff attended LCC.

Steve lives in the DeWitt area and is employed at the Lansing Federal Automakers Credit Union.

Jeff lives in the St. Johns area and is employed at E.T.M in Grand Ledge. He is married to **Debra Williams**. They have three sons: **Mike, Eric, and Andy.**

Gary and Shirley moved to Higgins Lake, MI, in 1991 after his retirement from the US Postal Service and where he served 34 years as a letter carrier. She retired from the St. Johns Public Schools. They enjoy their family and travel.

ROBERT AND ARLEITA VAN VLEET

Robert Francis VanVleet was born on Apr. 3, 1913, to **Fred** and **Maude (Vredenburg) VanVleet**. He was a well-known Olive Twp. farmer.

Robert married **Arleita Belle Armstrong** on June 27, 1932, in St. Johns, MI. They had six children: **Gary Allan, Bruce Robert, Marlene Alice, Ronald Frederick, Janet Kay,** and **David Rex**, all born in Olive Twp. David passed away in June 1943, age 6 months.

In 1958 Robert and Arleita moved to Higgins Lake, MI, and in 1972 they moved to the upper peninsula of Michigan. They spent their summers there and winters in Arizona.

Robert died July 8, 1990, in Marquette, MI, age 77. He is buried in the South Bingham Cemetery.

Arleita returned to her home town of St. Johns in 1992 to be near her family and to renew old friendships. In August 1992 a family reunion was held at Arleita's new home with all of her children and their families attending. She spends her winters in Arizona where she enjoys the sunshine and old friends. She also enjoys the company of her special pal, her dog Boomer.

FREDERICK AND MAUDE VAN VLEET

Frederick Clarence VanVleet was a highly respected, well-known Olive Twp. farmer, having lived there all of his life. He was born Nov. 13, 1872, son of **Philo** and **Antoinette VanVleet**.

Fred married **Maude Edna Vredenburg** Nov. 20, 1895. They had five children: **Gladys Antoinette, Mable Leola, Hazel Irene, Marian Alene,** and **Robert Francis**, all born in Olive Twp., Clinton Co. Fred was a member of the Masonic Lodge and was involved in Farm Bureau affairs for many years. He died March 2, 1950, in Olive Twp.

Maude Edna, a life-long resident of Clinton Co., was born to **Francis** and **Nellie (Rockwell) Vredenburg** Oct. 8, 1876. She was a member of the Olive Methodist Church and the Radiant Chapter O.E.S. of St. Johns. She died Apr. 24, 1955.

Fred and Maude are buried in the South Bingham Cemetery.

PHILO VAN VLEET

Philo VanVleet descended from **Aurie VanVleet/Vliet/Fleet**, one of the first VanVleets to come from Holland about 1665. They came first to New Jersey, then to New York. Some of the family fought in the Revolutionary War.

Philo was born at Arkwright, Chautauqua Co., NY, June 29, 1822. At age 14 he moved with his parents from his birthplace to Hillsdale Co., MI. They traveled in a wagon drawn by oxen.

Philo remained at home for a few years before moving to St. Joseph Co. to do farm work. There he met **Elenor McDonald** and they were married Oct. 14, 1847. In 1854 they moved to Bingham Twp. Elenor died Feb. 26, 1864, in Clinton Co.

Philo then married **Sally Antoinette (Taber) Peck** Nov. 9, 1864.

In Nov. 1866 they moved to a farm in section 9, Olive Twp.

Philo VanVleet was always referred to as an honest, sober, industrious, man, kind and indulgent in his family and obliging and kind as a neighbor. He was always found on the right side of all questions of public interest and was never afraid to give his opinion when asked to do so. When the news of Philo's death on Aug. 24, 1897, in his 76th year was received, these words were uttered on every side: "A good and valuable man has died." A good name is a lasting monument.

Sally died Feb. 4, 1908. She and Philo are buried in the South Bingham Cemetery.

Philo's children had three with his first wife: **Francis, Jeanette,** and **Martin**; and four with his second wife: **Adelbert, Frederick, Willie,** and **Lee**.

ALBERT VREDENBURG

Albert Hamilton Vredenburg was born Sept. 9, 1812, in NY state. He died June 14, 1882, in Ottawa Co., MI.

Albert and his family moved to St. Johns, MI, in 1860. In 1861 they moved to Olive Twp. and built a home just south of the junction of County Farm and Price Roads. In the fall of 1862 Albert went to serve in the Civil War and was stationed at Washington, D.C. He served until the war ended and was honorably discharged.

Albert had thirteen children, the 11th being **Francis Marian**. He married **Nellie Rockwell**, a descendant of **Charles Rockwell**. Francis and Nellie lived on a farm on DeWitt Road and they had two daughters: **Maude Edna** who married **Frederick VanVleet** and **Emily**.

FLOYD AND MINNIE ARMSTRONG

Floyd Armstrong was born in Duplain Twp., Clinton Co., on June 30, 1881. He

was a farmer all his life. His parents were **Francis and Salina (Bartel) Armstrong**. He married **Minnie Alice Carroll** in Oct 1912. They had one child, **Arleita Belle**, born Dec. 12, 1913. She married **Robert F. VanVleet**.

Minnie, a resident of Clinton Co. all her life was born in Duplain Feb. 18, 1889, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. **James Carroll**. She died, age 45, at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 21, 1934, at Clinton Memorial Hospital after a four-week illness.

Floyd died at Pleasant View Hospital in Corunna, MI, age 79. He and Minnie are buried in South Bingham Cemetery.

LOUIS AND EDNA MRAZEK

Louis Mrazek and Edna Wilson were married May 30, 1935, in Owosso, MI. They were residents of the Rochester Colony, Greenbush Twp., Clinton Co. for 36 years. They had five children: **Shirley Ellen** who married **Gary VanVleet**, **Louis James**, **Joyce Ann Barnes**, **Donna Jean O'Brien** and **Virginia Kay**.

Louis lives at the Rochester Colony home where he enjoys his family and reading. Edna died unexpectedly on Feb. 12, 1979, aged 59. She is buried in the Duplain Cemetery.

GEORGE THOMAS

The following is excerpted from an article about the Civil War in the May/June issue of *Michigan History Magazine*, on page 13:

"In Campbell Hospital, the one I visited today, the wounds are comparatively slight... **Geo. Thomas**, St. Johns, Co. 1, 27th Inf., flesh wound through the right cheek, not bad... Among the hundreds of these scarred and battered veterans I talked with, I heard but one murmur or complaint, and

that was from the lips of the sturdy fellow from St. Johns above named, who said he 'didn't think it was half fair to be popped over in the way he was without having a chance to shoot once! He was just getting into position when that ugly bit of lead came along and spoilt his face and his chance of returning the compliment.' "

EARLY EAGLE

The Clinton Republican, 17 Mar 1921 (page 13, col. 4) from the *Portland Review*

Mrs. **Walter Buckley** of Eagle, who descended from one of the first families to settle in that part of the state, furnishes the *Review* with the following interesting account of pioneer days:

In the year 1834 there were five families in what is now the town of Eagle; namely, **Stephen B. Groger**, **Heman Thomas**, **David Clark**, **Mr. Benson**, and **John Shear**. They took up government land and lived within a mile of each other. There was no road to guide them in their undertaking.

They built themselves cabins out of logs, there being no sawmills. They split out what they called "shakes" for roofing. There was no glass for the windows, so they tacked white cloth over the openings and for doors they hung blankets. At night it was necessary to keep a fire going in front of the houses to keep away the wolves and other wild animals which were numerous.

The nearest place where necessary commodities could be bought was a trading post at DeWitt and one at Portland where these early settlers exchanged their produce for furs. They reached these points on a raft, going to DeWitt on the Lookingglass and to Portland on the Grand River.

Stephen Groger worked for a man named **Scott** at DeWitt and would carry his flour and groceries home Saturday night on his back, walking both ways. Later on he helped newcomers locate farms, often carrying a bag of specie on their backs, there being no paper money in those days, and tramping all day to find a desirable location. He located land all through Clinton, Eaton, and Ionia Counties for several years.

These newcomers cleared their land and raised what they could to eat, and as there were marshy places, they cut hay from these for their stock—those who were lucky enough to have any. There was any amount of cranberries and they made maple sugar which they would take to the trading posts and trade for supplies.

It was in November 1834 that the first white child in Clinton Co. was born to Mr. and Mrs. **Stephen Groger**—a girl, and she was named **Susan**.

The many hardships these pioneers had to endure are hard to realize in these days of automobiles and modern improvements. I do not know how long it was before a school was organized, but think it must have been some time for my mother, **Fannie Groger**, went back to the state of New York to attend school and lived at the home of her mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. **Abijah Joslin**, grandparents of **Emery Joslin**, who lives near Lyons.

4-H SERVICE CLUB REUNION

Submitted by Janet (Staub) Dunn

On Aug. 2, 1999, former members of the 4-H Service Club of Clinton County and their spouses met near Smith Hall in St. Johns. It was the first day of the 4-H Fair. Members came from Ohio, Detroit area, Okemos, East Lansing, Lansing, and surrounding areas.

Old pictures, newspaper clippings, and other items of interest were brought by various members. A few former members wore the service club pins which were given to them at the time of their initiation.

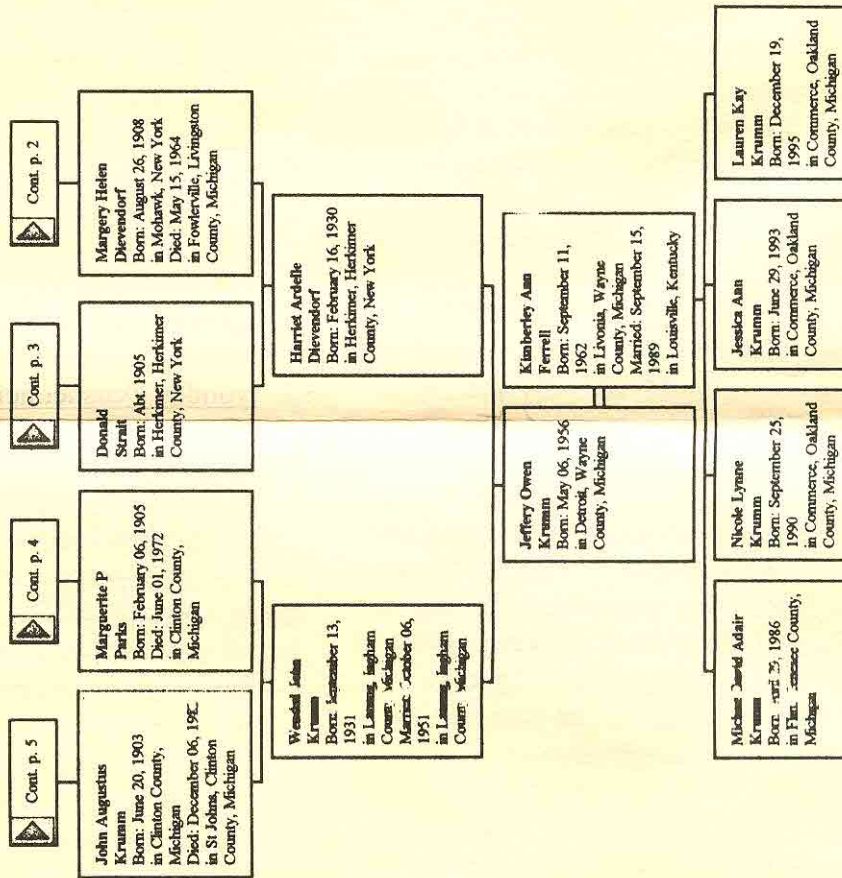
Remarks were made by **Einer Olstrum**, a former extension agent, and by **Don Davis**. **Norman Sleight** read parts of some minutes that his mother **Bernice** had written years ago. Someone started to sing some of the old camp songs that were sung around the campfire at **Twin Pines 4-H Camp**. That really dated some of us.

Many thanks to **Don** and **Alma Davis** for putting a list of former members together and to **Theresa Silm**, the current 4-H agent, for sending out the letter to former members and arranging for the tent in which we met.

Plans are to meet again next year at 11:30 a.m. on the Monday of the 4-H Fair. If you were a member of the Service Club who was not contacted this year and would like to attend, send your name and address to: **Donald Davis**, 205 N. Scott Road, Apt. C-1, St. Johns, MI 48879.

Ancestors of Jeffery O Krumm

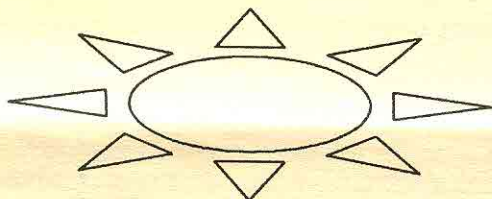
Hourglass Tree of Jeffery Owen Krumm



Kimberley Krumm
9070 Satellite Drive
White Lake, MI 48386

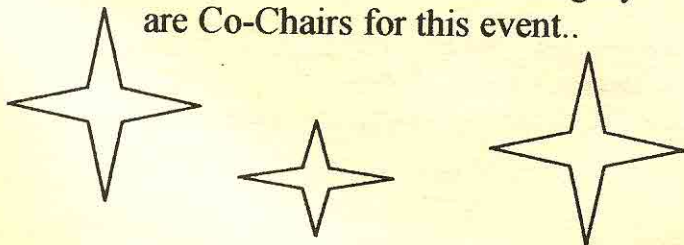
BLUE WATER HIGHWAY?

The History of Clinton County, Michigan, published by the Clinton Co. Historical society in 1980, states on page 36 that M-21 came to be known as **The Blue Water Highway**. Recently, the Historical Society has been offered the sum of \$100 if we can "provide evidence indicating who bestowed this name upon the road and when they performed this act." If anybody out there has a clue, please let one of the CCHS officers know.



P-G-S FUND DRIVE

The Advisory Board of the **Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum** is kicking off a fund drive Oct. 25, 1999, with a Meijer dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the U.A.W. Hall in St. Johns. Tickets are available for \$6.00 at the Museum. (Call 517-224-2894) Ruth Nihart and Bonnie Gregory are Co-Chairs for this event..



INGHAM CO. SEMINAR

On Sat., Nov. 13, 1999, the Ingham Co. Genealogical Society presents a genealogical seminar in Mason, MI, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person with lunch. Speakers are Shirley J. Hodges and Jana Sloan Broglin. For information and reservations call Sam Pardee (517-374-8178) or Jean Crawford (517-623-6130); or email icgs@yahoo.com.

CHART

On page 32 see the chart of **Jeffery Owen Krumm** which was submitted along with several other charts and pages of information on the Krumm family by **Kimberley Krumm**.

QUERY

Submitted by **Russell Lyon**, PO Box 421, Jacksonville, OR 97530. lyonden@cadsnet.net: Who were parents of **Sarah** who m **Joseph Conger Lyon** and d 4 Jul 1880 in the home of **James & Phoebe (Lyon) Anderson**. Where was Joseph C. born? He d 1871.

HELP IN MAINE

The *Bangor Daily News* in Bangor, Maine, runs a genealogy column which includes queries. email:

familyti@bangornews.infi.net

or write to: Family Ties
Bangor Daily News
PO Box 1329
Bangor, ME 04402

SURNAMES

Members may submit five surnames to be published in this newsletter, as space permits, when they pay their membership dues. See form on last page of this issue. Non-members may submit five names for a \$2 fee. Addresses below are in Michigan unless otherwise stated.

- ◆ **Jeffery & Kimberley Krumm**, 9070 Satellite Dr., White Lake 48386.
Krummk@ameritech.net
Krumm, Hopp, Parks, Sherman, Mansfield.
- ◆ **Corabelle (Parks) DeClerg**, 873 Kent St., Portland 48875: **Parks, Bouck, Morse, Vincent.**
- ◆ **Eugenia Arens**, 4344 S. Grange Rd., Fowler 48835: **Rademacher** (in Germany); **Nau/Pulte.**
- ◆ **Clark Tinney**, 4155 E. Megan Dr., Tucson, AZ 85712-1427. kitcat@starnet.com
Tinney, Huntley, Wheeler, Frazee, Vaughn.
- ◆ **Sandra Royston**, 7790 Knox Rd., Portland 48875. royston@power-net.net **Doty, Kerr, Voorhies, Brokaw, Holmes.**
- ◆ **Russell Lyon**, PO Box 421, Jacksonville, OR 97530. lyonden@cadsnet.net **James & Rowland S. Anderson** (Essex), **Wilton C. Anderson** (Lansing); **Mrs. Reuben Phillips** (Essex) & **Mrs. Edwin Annis** (Belding) –twins.
- ◆ **Virginia (Kosht) Starks**, 73 Stoneridge Rd., Ponca City, OK 76404: **Hettinger.**
- ◆ **John Castle**, 761 E. Columbia St., Mason 48854-1305. jcastle761@aol.com **Wust, Card, Castle, Howe, Wright.**
- ◆ **Virginia Ritsema**, 3434 Hathaway Lane, Jackson 49201-9736: **Jamison, Culver, Throop, Button, Upton.**
- ◆ **Virginia J. Watterson**, 3450 Camden Circle, Carlsbad, CA 92008-2006: **Hewitt, Hyatt, Annis, Cole, Lansing.**
- ◆ **Richard & Barbara Martin**, 5836b Dairy Rd., Baker, FL 32531.
barbaramn@aol.com **Martin, Losey, Wohlscheid, Houghton, Lindquist.**
- ◆ **Patricia Geyer**, 601 Manor Dr., Albion 49224: **Wight, Welch, Weaver, McWethy-Wilkinson, Greene.**
- ◆ **Linda K. Barnes**, 1602 Cambria Dr., East Lansing 48823. LiBarr@aol.com
Grubaugh, Jolly, Rhines, Washington, Proctor.
- ◆ **Deb Trinter**, 2644 Shanad Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89146: **Weber, Sondag/Sontag, Heyer, Goerge, Rademacher.**
- ◆ **Dwane V. Norris**, 4540 Hendee Rd., Jackson 49201-9414. **Bauerle/Bauerly, Hepfer, Norris, Siple, Tout.**
- ◆ **Maxine E. Lane**, 7261 S Linden Rd, Swartz Creek, 48473. maxilane@hotmail.com
Davis (Ingham & Clinton Cos.), Smith, Brady, Collins, Auten.
- ◆ **Diane Stanuszek**, 324 Jay St., St. Charles 48655. **Moss, VanSickle, Jacquish, Tripp, Hall.**

AT THE ARCHIVES

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- ◆ **Krumm** family charts.
- ◆ Eureka School 1924 photo (photocopy) of teacher & students.
- ◆ **William Tuttle Plowman** family tree.
- ◆ *Sonntag Family Roots in Photographs.*
- ◆ Eaton Co. Cemetery Indexes: Maple Hill; Walton Twp., Sunfield Twp., Roxand Twp.; Chester Twp.; and Brookfield Twp.
- ◆ Photo of 1923 class at Grand Ledge, MI, High School.

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

It's been like Christmas at the archives lately. Carole Henry and Janet Dunn just replenished our supply of large 3-ring binders. Member Judy Thelen donated some used computer equipment—a hand scanner and an ink jet printer-- which will help modernize our facility. Thanks so much to them and others who donate office supplies or money.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Needed: Someone with enough time and the computer skills necessary to create and keep current a database on vital statistics abstracted from the *Clinton Co. News*, beginning 1 Jan 2000.

Needed: Someone to index issues of *Clinton Co. Trails*. The last issues indexed were the 1993-1996 issues. This is another job for someone who can work with computer data bases.

HELP! SOS! 911!

The newsletter editors need help. Please contact us if you can contribute articles or formatting assistance. We welcome suggestions, criticism, or advice.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

It has been necessary to change the regular meeting place of the society due to the closing of the Community First Bank in St. Johns. Arrangements have been made to hold the meetings in the Bement Library Building. They are usually at 7:30 on the first Monday of every month. ♦