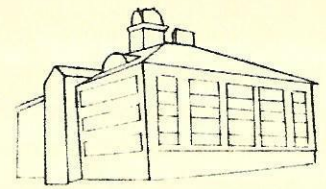




1871-1998

# Clinton County Trails



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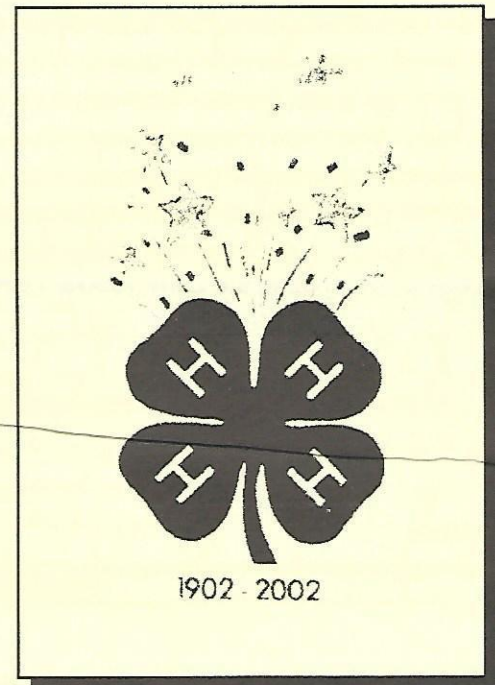
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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 4-H in U. S. 65<sup>th</sup> in Clinton County



I pledge My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands  
to larger service, My Health to better  
living, for my club, my community, my  
country & my world.

For 65 years 4-H club members have been reciting and living up to this pledge in Clinton Co. The first 4-H fair

was held in Aug. of 1937 and the first camping session was in the summer of 1936.

**Roscoe Smith**, county agricultural agent, was the driving force behind Clinton Co. 4-H activities for many years. In 1947 Twin Pines Camp, located in the northwest corner of the county, was renamed Camp Smith in honor of him and his wife, **Isabel**. Smith Hall, in the St. Johns City Park where the fair has always been held, was also dedicated to him in the effort to acknowledge his many contributions to the 4-H program.



Several people have allowed us to print their recollections of the 4-H experience. **Donald Findlay**, a lifelong resident of Essex Twp. and member of the P-L-G-H Club, recalls his projects and tells how 4-H influenced his life. **Janet Dunn** was a member of the DeWitt Village 4-H Club. She recounts early camp conditions. **Stuart Sleight**, his parents and brothers, were instrumental in establishing the Victor 4-H Club. Regrettably, we could include only a small part of his memoirs. **Connie (Cressman) Bauerle** summarizes sixty-five years of memories. Thank you all.

### Donald J. Findlay

As a farm boy growing up in the early 1930's, I couldn't wait to be old enough to join the 4-H Club. I was anxious to have a calf to call my own, train it to lead, and give it special care.

Our 4-H Club was called, P-L-G-H, for the four schools that the members attended. They were the Prairie, Lowe, Grove, and Hammond, all of which no longer exist. Our leader was **Charles Smith**. I always looked forward to getting together with other 4-H members.

My first project was a Holstein calf. The club was a livestock club. Some members had other animals, like sheep, chickens, and draft horses.

A highlight of the years was the camping experience. Twin Pines was started in the county very early on by Roscoe Smith. Mrs. Smith was also a very important part of the camp. It was located in Lebanon Township in the northwest corner of the township. There were no buildings at first, just tents and a stone grill on which to cook all the meals. The first night the campers didn't get much sleep. Most of us had never camped before or been away from home on an experience like that.

Roscoe Smith's solution to that was to take us on a long walk the next day to make sure that we were tired enough

to sleep that night.

A few years later a new building had been built and the camp was pretty well organized. Some of the older club members were given a lot of the responsibility. I well remember snipe hunts and roasting steak on a stick.

Soon after that Roscoe Smith started the 4-H Fair at the [St. Johns City] park. Again there were no buildings, just tents for exhibits. If I remember correctly, the pavilion was used for the girls' homemaking and sewing exhibits. Each exhibitor was given a ticket to the Clinton Theater in the afternoon. We walked as a group from the city park to attend a movie downtown.

Lasting friendships were made with other 4-Hers from all of the county, as well as, friendships and many memories of our leaders and the county extension office personnel. We had some great ones.

Since my earliest days in 4-H, many changes have been made in the program, but basically 4-H remains an important part of young lives, also older lives. My 4-H experience, the things I learned, and friendships I made have had a strong influence on my life. I became a 4-H leader, a 4-H parent, and a 4-H grandparent.

I fondly recall my times with the 4-H Service Club, also started by Roscoe Smith. Recently, some of the early members have begun meeting periodically for lunch. I hope the association can continue to grow. We've enjoyed being together, remembering old times. All Service Club members are urged to attend.

**“4-H...The  
Power of  
YOUTH”**

### Janet (Staub) Dunn

My first time at the 4-H Camp northwest of Fowler was also the first year that it was held at that location. It was known as Twin Pines Camp because of the two huge pine trees that were located on the side hill. On arrival my father had us get out and walk up the high hill. It seemed much larger

than the one near Grandpa Staub's on Chadwick Road in Olive Twp. There was a gate at the top to control the cows which were all around the camp. They would even wander by the tents.

Our group had one large and one small tent. I was supposed to sleep in the smaller one with the younger girls, but I bawled so bad when it was time for my parents to leave that they let me sleep in the larger one with my baby sitter, **Donna (Chadwick) Gable**. We had to fill ticks with straw and sleep on the ground, my first experience at this fete! In a later year my parents purchased a folding canvas army cot for me. No air mattress at that time, but it was much better than sleeping on the ground. It was great to sleep in a tent with a floor eventually--no crawly surprises in the nighttime!

We also had to take our own dishes the first year. We put them all together and then had to sort them at the end of camp. I remember taking my special bowl. It had "um--all gone" at the bottom.

The cooking was done on the fireplace outdoors. We also ate outdoors under the apple trees (in the shade if you were lucky to get there first). I don't remember whether we had the dinner bell to call for meals, etc., this year. I do know it was there later. If campers were caught ringing it for no reason, they got K.P.

To get a drink of water in those days, it was necessary to walk down a small hill to a flowing well. If real hot you were ready for another drink soon after you arrived back. To add amusement when walking, someone in front or rear would holler, "Chloe;" then the person at the opposite end would respond. The path through the trees to the rickety outhouse for the girls was very scary at night. I don't remember if it was a 2 or 3-holer. Where the boys went, I never did know. There was a lantern placed nearby, but it was still a place a young person did not like to venture alone.

For bathing, there was one wash basin, soap, and water for each tent. Showers, other than the rain, were not thought of.

Having spent many hours in the woods near our home and knowing the names of all the wildflowers (thanks to my father), it was a thrill when I found beautiful white Indian Pipes. Soon after being picked though, they turned black. I have never seen any since except in flower books.

There were always crafts for the campers. We made pictures with a piece of tin, pounding a nail just enough to make an indentation, hoping we didn't pound hard enough to make a hole. This was later mounted on a board. There was bead work and braiding too. There was

always a ball game in progress, tug of war, and other games.

At some camps we were divided into groups by color, or bird names. etc, for contests. Usually the losers had to do dishes the last day and clean the dining room. There was always K. P. for the losers.

I can't forget to mention **Roscoe Smith's** dog, a brown boxer which was friendly with everybody.

Everyone wished they could go to town for supplies with Mr. Smith's helpers. Some of the helpers were **Bernard Mankey, Duane VanEpps, Neil Harte,** and **Stuart Sleight**.

Some pranks were pulled. One in particular I remember was on **Neil Harte**. He had his cot in the rafters of the dining hall thinking he was safe, but he did get short-sheeted once. We found a way!

The year in which the Indian chief came and visited was great. He was a true Indian with head feathers, moccasins and all.

After we got a few years older, **Barbara (Fuerstenau) Moore, Ruth (Henning) Yatchman, Clarice Woodruff,** and I were allowed to go to all of the camps. We would have to do the cooking dishes but not the plates, cups, and silverware that the camp attendants ate from. We oversaw the wiping of the "common" campers' dishes. The four of us would also do the dishes for the 4-H Fair. **Jessie "Ma" Viaches** and **Grace Sample** did all the cooking for the exhibitors staying at the fair to tend livestock. The exhibitors slept in the barns where one of the pens was reserved for resting and equipment.

I looked forward to camping at the fair each summer, renewing acquaintances, and making new friends. Sure wish I could remember more!



**The 4-H Motto:  
"To Make the  
Best Better"**

## Stuart Sleight

To say that 4-H had a major impact in my formative years is an understatement. It goes without saying that my life with **Gerry (Geraldine) Biergans** might not have happened had I not met her in 4-H.

My brothers, **Norman and Justin Sleight**, were in a 4-H Club in the early 30's with **Elzie and Vida Exelby** as their leaders. I vaguely remember going to their small house for meetings. This was during the early years of the depression and the county had trouble supporting extension work. The county fair ran into financial difficulties and had to close down. As a result there was a brief hiatus without 4-H in Victor Township. From what I have learned Roscoe Smith our County Agent had left Clinton County to go to Saginaw and during the time he was gone 4-H activities virtually halted.

My dad was instrumental in influencing him to return to Clinton County and as a result there was a renewal of interest in 4-H. By the time 1937 rolled around, Norman was 17 years old and with my parent's, **Rolan & Bernice (Beckwith) Sleight**, full support decided to be the leader of a reactivated Victor 4-H Club. Justin was a little younger, but he was being groomed, perhaps without him realizing it, to become a leader later on. I was only nine years old in 1937 and to become a full fledged 4-Her one had to be ten years old. Therefore, I was a Junior Member with my poultry project. We had 15 in our summer club with projects in cattle, sheep, poultry and gardening.

Just as we did for the next nine years, we met at our house. Dad always saw to it that we had good animals and our purebred Holstein herd and Hampshire flock resulted from his purchases for us of foundation animals. Mother was a strong though usually quiet force that provided motivation and discipline to us and to members who met at our place.

Our 4-H meetings were fun and because of this kids nearly always attended the meetings and participated in whatever activities were being promoted. Our front yard served as a softball diamond for games before the meetings and everybody played. Sometimes we had other games as well. Meetings were usually well organized and we followed *Robert's Rules of Order* for parliamentary procedure. We always started our business meeting with the 4-H Pledge to our club, our community and our country. After the business meeting we often had a program with guest speakers, such as the County 4-H Agent, on how to improve our projects and community endeavors in agriculture. Afterwards we sang songs and had

refreshments. Our elected officers ran the meetings, and we had committees for refreshments and special activities.

Our club was well represented at 4-H Camp in 1937. The camp was in the northwest corner of Clinton County near Fowler in Lebanon township on land that was later leased to the county for that purpose. The camp director and organizer was Roscoe Smith, the County Agent, with considerable help from his wife, Isabel, and the District 4-H Agent, **John Converse**. Roscoe was not a large man but he was strong. He usually had an unsmoked cigar in his mouth and to the kids he seemed older than he was. His manner was brusque and he quickly and firmly made the point that he was in charge and we'd better behave ourselves. And pairing off and going into the woods was one of his admonitions.

Camp cost a dollar and if possible campers were expected to bring some food that could be used. During the first years we had no buildings. Cooking was done outside and tables were set up under some apple trees that were there. Of course we slept in tents, three or more to each tent. Some kids brought cots or mattresses, but many brought an empty mattress cover that was filled with straw from a nearby farm.

Campers came in during the afternoon of the first day of the four day camp and set up their tents before the evening meal. Later there would be a camp fire, with songs, dances and stories, until it was time to go to bed. All the kids were wound up and usually didn't get to sleep for several hours even though they were admonished to do so. We would be roused up rather early in the morning to get up for breakfast. After a full day of hiking, playing games, and generally fooling around, the kids were worn out enough to be ready for a good night's rest.

There was no well at the camp initially so water had to be hauled in for drinking and for washing. Outside toilets were back in the woods. Camp was held in July, the hottest time of the year. Mosquitoes were usually abundant. When one looks back on those early camps one might wonder why we had such a great time. We didn't know that we should have had a lake with boats, a dining and recreation hall, trained camp counselors and suitable plumbing to have a worthwhile camp. Since we didn't know any better we thought our camp was about the most fun and the greatest experience any one could ever have.

The year 1937 was an eventful one for Clinton County because it marked the opening of the annual Clinton County 4-H Fair. It was held in the St. Johns City Park with no buildings except a small pavilion designed originally for family reunions and picnics. The County

Board of Supervisors supported the concept of the fair and appropriated \$400 for premiums. Support from the St. Johns Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce provided \$70 for tent rental. Roscoe Smith's vision, which continues to this day, was for a fair mainly for the kids with no midway or rides. Programs were to be put on by the kids and if any outside entertainers were brought in they had to be sponsored with no cost to the fair goers.

Norman was pleased with the results of his first year as leader and was rewarded with a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. According to him, "this trip was positively the finest thing that ever happened to me. Never before had I realized how vast and how wonderful was our 4-H Club program." He was more enthused than ever about 4-H and made plans throughout the winter for the next year's summer projects. For a young man he had a remarkable vision as to what 4-H could do for our community and fortunately for all of us he had the intelligence, determination and energy to bring the full meaning of 4-H to nearly every boy and girl in our community in the next few years.

Meanwhile (1937-38) we had a winter handicraft club with nine members and **Hugh Beardslee**, my sixth grade teacher at the Reed School, as our leader. We met in the furnace room of our basement. We had a fairly good-sized work bench, but no power tools. A miter box and saw, rip and crosscut hand saws, planes, squares, vises and clamps, hand drills and bits, wood rasps, hammers and screw drivers were about all we had. We used lots of sand paper. As a first year member I was required to make a sanding block. The challenge was to have all sides perfectly square. This may sound simple but with hand tools it was far from easy. I also made a small book shelf, a whisk broom holder, a wren house and an outdoor nesting shelf for birds such as robins. I thought I did pretty well even though I only won a white ribbon at the Spring Achievement Day. The birds were pleased with my efforts.

I was now ten years old and ready for a real livestock project. Early in the year my dad bought a pregnant purebred Hampshire ewe from **Lyman Cobb** of Elsie for fifteen dollars. She had twin lambs in March, a ram and a ewe, but unfortunately the ewe lamb died. As was to become my custom, I named female animals after my brothers' girl friends and this ewe was named Hazel. Her son was Johnny.

Summer 1938 enrollment in our club consisted of 26 boys with Dairy, Sheep, Colt or Corn projects. This was quite remarkable considering that two years before we did

not have a club in our township. In addition, a girls' club was organized and the two clubs met together at our house. According to Norman, one of the greatest contributions of club work in our community was the socialization that took place. The kids anxiously awaited the meetings and started coming about 6 o'clock to play softball or other games. The kids were enthusiastic, generally well behaved and attentive at the meetings, but it was always lots of fun. Meetings sometimes lasted until midnight.

We had other club activities as well. To raise money we had an ice cream social at **Henry Hempstead's** grove near Round Lake. It may not sound like much but to raise \$25 at such an event was very good during the depression.

In 1938 Norman actively encouraged kids to go to the 4-H Camp and there were about 25 boys and girls from Victor Township that went. Norman worked closely with Mr. Smith and Mr. Converse and acted as recreational director and general assistant. He encouraged his club members to help whenever asked or needed and to make friends with other 4-Hers from around the county.

It was during this time that Norman and a few others conceived the idea of a County 4-H Service Club comprised mainly of older club members and key leaders to assist in running the camp and helping with the fair and other activities as needed. Just before the fair there were fourteen charter members selected, including Norman and Justin. Norman acted as their first president. In 1999, more than sixty years later, we had a reunion of former Service Club members at the fair. Most of the early records have been lost so no one is sure how many people were in the Service Club or how long it was in existence. We had nearly 65 old timers show up at the meeting with notebooks and pictures and lots of fond memories. It was gratifying to me that my brothers were there to reminisce and to reflect on how 4-H has enriched our lives.

## **Connie (Cressman) Bauerle**

Clinton County 4-H sixty-five years anniversary is a good time to reflect for former members.

At a 1952 4-H Service Club dance at Olive Grange on DeWitt Road in Clinton County, brother and sister, Russel and Ruth Bauerle provided entertainment. Russel played the harmonica and Ruth the guitar. Ruth introduced Russel to Connie and the rest, as they say, is history.

Russel took 4-H projects of field crops, woodworking, and gardening and was a 4-H leader for five

years. 1955 Russel wrote one of the top stories in the nation on his experiences at the National 4-H Club Congress, after returning from his trip that he had been awarded. His prize was a 19-jewel Elgin wristwatch.

Connie took 4-H projects of clothing, canning, food preparation, home garden, flower garden, home furnishings and sheep. Through the years we were sometimes awarded the same trip during the same year.

Our friendship grew and we dated off and on during our high school years. Upon graduating, Connie attended Lansing Business University and became a secretary. In 1956, Russel was awarded a scholarship to Michigan State University by the State 4-H Club. In 1958 we were married. In 1960, Russel earned a B.S. Degree in Agricultural Engineering and became an engineer and continued to farm.

While raising our family (Ronald, Laura & Paul), Connie was a 4-H leader for about five years and Personal Appearance project chairperson at the Clinton County 4-H fair for two years. Our daughter, Laura, became a teen leader, and also chairperson of the 4-H roadside cleanup for one year.

All three children took field crops as their 4-H projects and the monies they earned from the sale of their crops, helped pay for their college educations. Ron and Paul graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. In Electrical Engineering and Laura received her degree from Clemson University in Chemical Engineering. They are working in these repective fields of engineering today.

As I write this I wonder how coincidental it is to have written this in my sixty-fifth year.

Note: Logo & Artwork used with permission from the Clinton County Extension/MSU Extension Service



**1940's 4-H Twin Pines Camp Group Photo** courtesy of Janet Dunn

**"Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future"  
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For the Clinton County Fairgrounds History Book - (\$15.00) contact the Clinton Co. Extension Office,  
100 E. State St., Suite 100, St. Johns, MI 48879

## ANSON PRESTON

Civil War Veteran (submitted by Betty Driscoll)

The following information has been collected by the Clinton County Cemetery Reclamation Project and is presented here in an effort to gain more information on this Civil War Soldier, who is buried in an unmarked grave at the Union Home Cemetery in Clinton County. Anyone with information is asked to email or write the address below.

19 year old **Anson Preston** was a resident of Washtenaw Co, MI, when he enlisted on 9 Sep 1861 with Company F, 1<sup>st</sup> MI Infantry. He was discharged from NY in 1862 and came to the Clinton County area sometime thereafter. He applied for pension on 27 May 1864. In those days, pension was very restricted and was generally only allowed to those soldiers who were wounded in action.

By 1880, the 38-year-old Anson was living in Washington Twp., Gratiot Co. MI, near the Clinton County border, with his wife **Julia** and their children **Frank**, **Carrie** and **Orin**.

Mr. Preston died in Washington Twp. on 7 May 1886 as a result of a gunshot wound received in the Army. NY born, he was the son of **Ira and Alcesta(?) Preston**. His Gratiot County death record indicates his parents were from Clinton Co., but this doesn't necessarily mean they were still alive, although they could have been.

**Julia A. Preston** applied for widow's benefits on 1 Jun 1886. Later, her daughter, **Carrie L. Preston** was married in Gratiot Co. MI. It is believed Julia and her husband are buried beside **Esther Preston** (d 1963) and **Orin Preston** (d 1921). Both Esther and Orin have stones and their burial was confirmed by sexton records. Also known to be buried on lot 19 is **Louisa L. Preston**, daughter of Anson and Julia: She died 31 Mar 1883. The plot also has a Veteran's marker, which is decorated with a flag each year, but no stone stands there. Sexton records indicate a Veteran is buried on lot 19, beside the old well in the front part of the cemetery. The burial of **Anson Preston** is marked on their burial maps.

**Julia Preston** died 13 Feb 1908 and her obit appears in the 27 Feb 1908 edition of the *Gratiot County Herald*. It states that she was born 10 May 1850 in Hillsdale Co., MI. She married **Anson Preston** and they

had four children, three of whom survived their mother: **Frank Preston** of St. Johns, **Mrs. Carrie Preston-Twomley** [sic, probably Tromley] of Washington Twp, and **Orin Preston** on the old home. Secondly, she married **George Roe**; died in 1905. She was also survived by her sisters **Mrs. Amy Baughan** of Merrill and **Mrs. Mat Rollin** of St. Johns and brothers **Barton Bailey** and **Thomas Bailey**, both of St. Johns. She was buried at the Union Home Cemetery in Clinton Co., MI.

There is no stone for **Julia Preston** or **Julia Roe** at the Union Home Cemetery. We believe she is buried there, beside her husband and daughter.

An application is being made for a military issued tombstone for Mr. **Anson Preston**. If you have any information on this family, it might help in our quest to place a stone on this unmarked Veteran's grave. Please contact me via email at [bdriscoll@voyager.net](mailto:bdriscoll@voyager.net) or by mail at Betty Driscoll, 9394 W. Silver Lake Rd., Mears MI 49436. Thank you for your help.

## DANIEL HANDY

Civil War Veteran (submitted by Betty Driscoll)

The Clinton County Cemetery Restoration Project is pleased to announce the placement of a tombstone on the previously unmarked grave of Private **Daniel Handy**.

Mr. Handy was 38 years old when he enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, on 15 August 1862. Prior to his enlistment, he and his family lived and farmed in Lebanon Twp. He served his country with the 5<sup>th</sup> MI Cavalry, Company G, from 15 Aug 1862 until he mustered out on 1864. He left the War with wounds that would disable him for the rest of his life. He fought for the North in skirmishes in Littletown, Monterey, Boonsborn, Hagerstown, Williamsport, and other battlefields whose names have been forgotten by history. His wife, **Mary Ann**, and children waited for him on the small farm they had owned since 1862. Little did they know that he had been wounded in a skirmish at Buckland Mills, VA. There, in October of 1863, he was taken prisoner. He was later returned to his unit, recovered, and fought again in VA at the battle at Manassas Gap in 1864. He received a wound there that ended his military involvement. He mustered out in March 1864.

He returned home, unable to walk without great pain. He had been shot in the back and later in the thigh. He was granted a military pension of \$1.60 per month. In 1873 that amount was increased to \$6.00. The government considered him 5/8 disabled. At an 1884 hearing to increase pension, neighbor **Christopher Sheffield** testified that Mr. Handy had been unable to do scarcely any work since about July of 1883. The physician that saw him in February of the same year described the 5' 8" Mr. Handy as appearing generally unhealthy and haggard looking.

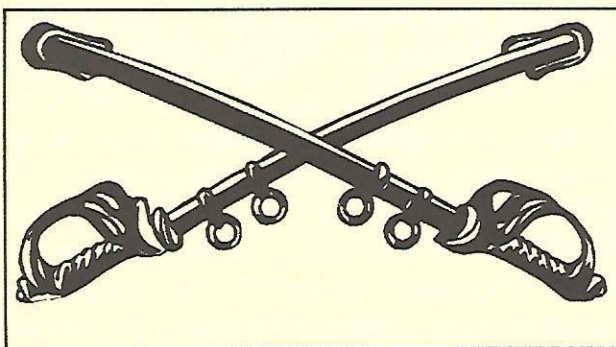
He passed away 9 Dec 1884, the place of death unknown. His death is not recorded in Clinton, Gratiot, Kent or Montcalm Counties. He was survived by his wife of 44 years. He was predeceased by two adult sons whom the locals believe are buried beside their father in one of four plots owned by him at Essex Township's Beach Cemetery.

Mrs. Handy applied for widow's pension benefits following her husband's death: An increase in pension to \$8.00 was granted to her. **Mary Handy** passed away in St. Louis, MI, in 1899. A daughter survived.

Today a military marker for Private Daniel Handy is the only stone sitting on lot 50 of the Beech Cemetery. Our project is grateful to the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society for the research and resources they provided in our quest to erect this headstone. We also thank the Sons of Union Soldiers of the Civil War for coordinating the placement of this monument. But above all, we thank Private Daniel Handy and all other soldiers for their sacrifices and our freedoms.

Betty Driscoll [bdriscoll@voyager.net](mailto:bdriscoll@voyager.net)

Corky Chamberlain 989-224-4284



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Charlie Chaplin ..... Don Frisbie  
Uncle from Bridgeville ..... Howard Fell  
Aunt from Bridgeville ..... Ed McCloe  
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Fred Frisbie  
Fritz Kreisler ..... Dee Allen  
Mary Pickford ..... Kenneth Winsor  
Groom's Haughty Mother ..... Rev. Norris  
Groom's Haughty Father ..... Austin Cowles  
Fashion Plate ..... Dr. Elson  
Sir Harry Lauder ..... Ed Piggott  
Kentucky Colonel ..... J. R. Hudson  
His Lady ..... Clyde Jaquish  
Sis Hopkins ..... Harold Hanson  
Mrs. Green ..... Ray Rumsey  
Gov. Green ..... Leo Parkinson  
Country Cousin ..... Glenn Parr  
Rosie O'Grady ..... Lloyd Cook  
Pat O'Grady ..... Ed Klein  
Henry Ford ..... Leigh Iddings  
Mrs. Ford ..... Claude Crook  
Henpecked Husband ..... James Sowles  
His Devoted Wife ..... Clyde Britten



Pres. Hoover ..... Herbert Parr  
Mrs. Hoover ..... Frank Roberts  
Negro Mammy ..... L. C. Brown  
Baby Sister ..... Ray Crawford  
Rastus ..... Thomas Noonan  
Sambo ..... Donald Jaquish  
Groom's Grandmother ..... George Float  
Groom's Grandfather ..... Myron Eldred  
Flapper of 1930 ..... LaVerne Groom  
Mayor Whozit from Mather-  
ton ..... Charlie Biensted  
Mrs. Whozit ..... James Wright  
Village School Marm ..... Jasper Catlin  
General Pershing ..... Otto Bullis  
Colonel Lindbergh ..... Chas. Sigafosse  
Theda Bara ..... Sonny Frisbie  
Mrs. Rockefeller ..... Thad Kidder  
Mr. Rockefeller ..... John Smith  
Galli-Curci ..... Clare Smith  
Ushers ..... Orville Eldred  
Clare Float  
Boyd Eldred  
Best Man ..... John Howe  
Bishop ..... Henry Parmalee  
Bridesmaids ..... Tom Cook  
Carl Bird  
Earl Bolling  
Maid of Honor ..... Elston Hicks  
Matron of Honor ..... Erwin Upham  
Flower Girls ..... Fred Winsor  
Hugh Lamphere  
Ringbearer ..... Walter Gamble  
Bride ..... J. M. Settington  
Groom ..... Guess Who?  
Trainbearer ..... S. P. Horr

**Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 15 - 16**

Shows Start at 8:30 p. m.

Admission 35c and 50c

WARNING—This particular play was composed and is owned and produced by Symson Levie Co., and protected by copyright number 70671 U. S. Copyright office at Washington, D. C. Any person or organization attempting infringement, using parts in any way, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent, and damages collected for same.

1930 Womanless Wedding Play courtesy of Carole Henry

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- ❖ *Historical Date Book of Clinton County*, biographical sketches of prominent & representative citizens; 47 pp.; stapled binding. \$5 + \$1 postage = \$6
- ❖ *Past and Present of Clinton County, Michigan*; by Judge S. B. Daboll; 1906; reprint 1987; 572 pp; index. \$40 + \$5 postage + \$45
- ❖ *The Way We Were*; 18 reproduced postcards, vintage views of St. Johns buildings. \$5 + \$1 postage = \$6

### Send check to:

Clinton Co. Historical Society, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879  
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- ❖ *Cemeteries in Clinton County, Michigan*; directory of names & locations of cemeteries; Rev. 2000; 5 pp. \$1 + \$ .50 postage = \$1.50
- ❖ *Records of the Rev. Guilford S. Northrup*; baptisms, weddings, and funerals in central Michigan ca 1880-1920; 1981; 55 pp.; stapled binding; indexed. \$5 + \$1 postage = \$6
- ❖ *Union Home Cemetery*; Greenbush Twp., survey done May 2001; 44 pp; unbound. \$10 + \$2 postage = \$12.
- ❖ *United States Civil War Soldiers Living in Michigan in 1894*; 1988; 288 pp. \$25 + \$5 postage = \$30
- ❖ *1840 Federal Census, Clinton County, Michigan*; 1988; stapled binding; 7 pp. \$5 + \$1 postage = \$6
- ❖ *Mt. Rest Cemetery Records, St. Johns, Michigan, 1855-2000*; Pub. 1996, Rev. 2001, 227 pp; comb binding; 11,000+ records. \$30 + \$5 postage = \$35
- ❖ *1940 Rural Directory of Clinton County, Michigan*; reprint 2000; 44 pp.; stapled binding. \$7.50 + \$2 postage = \$9.50
- ❖ *1864 Plat Map of Clinton County, Michigan*; indexed; apx. 50 pp.; unbound. \$5 + \$2 postage = \$7.00
- ❖ *Oak Ridge Cemetery*, Bengal Twp., Clinton Co., MI; 2001; headstone readings, ownership records, & stone repairs; apx. 50 pp; comb binding. \$15 + \$2 postage = \$17
- ❖ *Schools of Clinton County, Michigan*; guide to locating early school buildings; 5 pp. \$1 + \$ .50 postage = \$1.50
- ❖ *Clinton County Trails*; quarterly newsletter; subscription included with annual dues of \$10 single, \$15 family

Send check to: Genealogists of the CCHS, P.O. Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879

Rev. June 2002

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- The Descendants of **John Wolcott & Rhoda (Doolittle) Wolcott**
- Photo - 1928 Clinton County Normal graduates.
- Photo - **Florence Taber**.
- Photo - **Mabel (Zischke) Bauerle**.
- Michigan Federal Census, 1930; Clinton, Crawford, Dickinson, Eaton, Iosco, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, St. Joseph, & Shiawassee Counties.
- Marriages 1941-1950, abstracted from The Clinton Co. Republican-News & The Clinton Republican.
- Ancestors of **DeWayne William Baxter**.
- Ford Cemetery; 1997; Elsie Historical Society.
- Clinton County Farm/Infirmary records ca 1881-1977
- Photo - Olive Center School students & teacher
- Ancestors of **Daniel Richard Sturgis**

## QUERIES

Submitted by Linda Ordiway-Nelson, 14200 18-1/2 Mile Road, Marshall, MI 49068-9337. Seeking information on **Rosella Malinda Thomas**, b 1864 Greenbush Twp.(?); dau of **Philip & Mary T. (Bartram) Thomas**.

Submitted by Judith P. Clapp, 526 Lafayette St., Grand Haven, MI 49417, [jpandjpcclapp@chartermi.net](mailto:jpandjpcclapp@chartermi.net) Researching **Samuel Hunt** (1775-1855) and wife **Susannah Bixby Hunt** (1797-1881) of Clinton and Saginaw Counties. Susannah's parents were **Ephraim W. Bixby** (1778-1863) and **Phebe Adams Bixby** (1779-1869) of Victor Township, Clinton County. I am looking for information on both of these families. Also looking for any possible connection between Hunt-Bixby and **Sally C. Mather** (1786-1867).

Submitted by **Leslie Gibson/Sanders**, 1810 Beachway Lane, Odessa, FL 3356, [les19452000@yahoo.com](mailto:les19452000@yahoo.com) Looking for relatives or friends of **Peter & Esma (Gibson) Clayton** family; lived near DeWitt. Their children: **Nettie (Clayton) Duzenbury Young**, b 1914; **Hazel (Clayton/Gibson) Stegall**, b 1 Nov 1917; **Atha Clayton** b 2 Apr 1921. Also following related people; **R.D.Burke, Robert Denny & Jada Michell Smith**.

# Archives 20th Year in DeWitt Twp.

Based on a history by Arlene Schrader, 1983

In 1974, when the Clinton Co. Historical Society was originated, a Genealogy Committee was established for the purpose of assisting persons searching for family history. They held meetings in the lower level of the Bement Library in St. Johns. One of their first projects was the indexing of the county atlases. They updated tombstone readings, noted items of genealogical interest in local libraries, worked on various indexing projects, and began gathering material.

The committee's holdings were stored in an upstairs room at the Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum.

Their collection outgrew the museum room and was moved to a another site in St. Johns, on East Walker Street. Still later, it was transferred to the former home of Hila Bross on French Road.

In November 1982, the DeWitt Twp. location was offered. The archives has occupied several different rooms in the DeWitt Twp. Community Building which originated as the Valley Farms School and then became offices of DeWitt Charter Twp. In June of 2001 the archives moved to the west end of the building.

The collection has expanded to an unforeseen size. Preserving and maintaining the collection and assisting researchers now keeps a volunteer staff of six occupied for as many hours as they care to serve. The genealogy committee is grateful for the generous, 20-year accommodation by DeWitt Twp.

⇒ **The Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society** are located at 16101 Brook Road in the DeWitt Twp. Community Center. Volunteers are there to give research assistance from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays & Fridays. Phone: (517) 482-5117. Web Page: [www.dewittlibrary.com/cchs/](http://www.dewittlibrary.com/cchs/)

⇒ **The Genealogists of the CCHS** meet the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in the First Bank community room, located downtown St. Johns. The **Historical Society meetings** are held at 7:00 at First Bank, the first Monday of Jan., April, July & Oct. E-mail address: [ccgensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ccgensoc@yahoo.com)

⇒ **The Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum** is located on the west side of the Courthouse Square in St. Johns. Open April 1 - Dec 31. Sunday 1:00-4:00 p.m. & Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL-2002

### LIST 5 NAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING

Mr./Mrs./Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

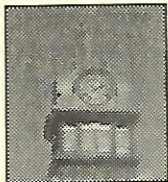
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ANNUAL DUES to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are \$10 single and \$15 a couple/family. Membership is based on the calendar year and includes a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, *Clinton County Trails*. Checks should be made payable to the Clinton County Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879. Genealogical queries should be addressed to: Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 23 St. Johns, MI 48879.

- ❖ **Your membership is greatly appreciated.** You are an important part of the Clinton County Historical and Genealogical Societies! You make it possible to help preserve historical resources for future generations.
- ❖ Readers are encouraged to submit articles, ideas, and information to the editor for consideration. All material is subject to editing.
- ❖ **Our Mistake!** We apologize to Georgia Haines (and any who searched in vain) for promising on page 14 in the June 2002 issue to include her charts. At one point we intended to do just that, but then discovered that we had published an earlier version of the charts in the issue of June 1997. In the last-minute juggling of articles and pages we neglected to omit the reference. Her updated charts are on file at the archives.
- ❖ **Plowman School** - Jim Cornell and Jackie Cornell have been identified as the two students of 1948/49 Plowman School picture in the previous issue (June 2002). They are standing on either end of the front row.



**CLINTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 174  
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879

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