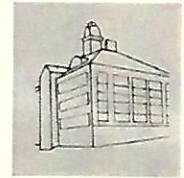




CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS

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CCHS celebrates Jan Dunn's 25 years of service

Janet Dunn is the CCHS Archives ultimate dream volunteer. Always smilingly willing to do any task asked of her from helping in at least 2 moves from room to room in the Dewitt Township building, being on hand to help with continuous necessary rearranging and upkeep in the Archives rooms to always tackling the most tedious projects with dogged determination.

For instance:

1. Writing and updating countless/endless index cards for card file on births/marriage/deaths from local newspapers, and keeping all the card-file cards properly filed.
2. She sorts and organizes endless pieces of paper & files.
3. She finds, fetches, files, makes copies, you name it, she does it..and even takes out trash!

Jan is an expert at scanning newspapers for vital records and spotting historical articles for the Archive's vertical files. She faithfully has shown up every Tuesday from south Lansing, rain or shine for 25 years.

She works with Archives director, Myrna VanEpps, who says of her "Jan has always maintained her cheerful, energetic nature and has been the best assistant, advisor & friend anyone could ask for".

On June 2, at the annual CCHS staff dinner, Jan was presented with a 25 year recognition certificate and gifts by CCHS president, Lynne Gregory.

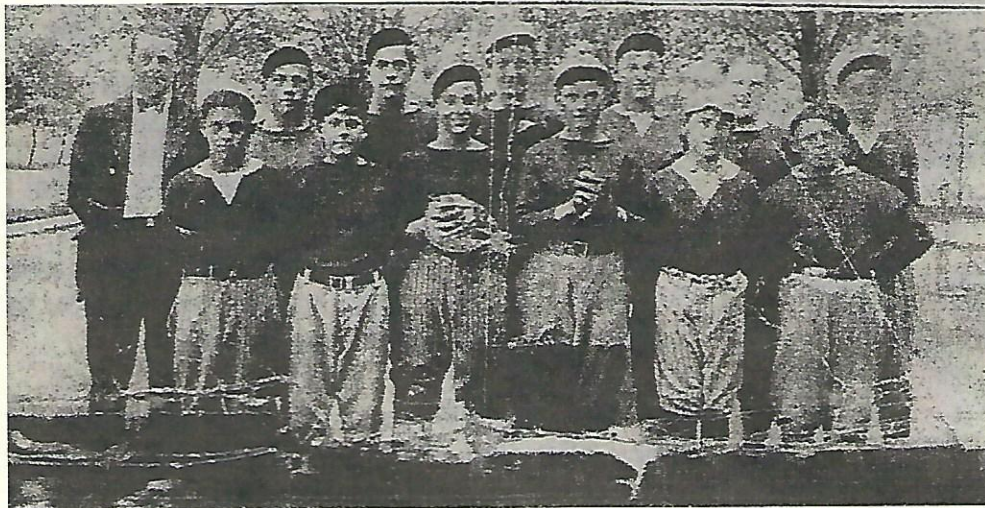
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Eureka Baseball Team - 1918-19

Back row: Kenneth Wright [3rd Base]; Frank Huguelet [Catcher]; Mr. Wilbur [Manager]; Austin Engersoll [2nd Base]; Laurence Burk [Right Field]

Front Row: Miron Post [Center Field]; Elliston Miller [1st Base] Ellis Gregory [Left Field]; Harley Miller [Pitcher]; Ford Kuhns [Shortstop]



Back: Mr. ?, L. Schafley, Francis ?. Clyde ?; Roy Schafley, Dorward Ward, Max Ellwanger
 Front: Ford Schavey, Thomas White; Francis Brainerd, Herbert Searles, Leonard Rossow & Louis Rossow

EDITORIAL: We have a baseball team and no place for them to play. Why not help them by giving them a good field? Is it right to deprive a group of boys who are full of pep and enthusiasm of the advantages that might be gained from a good baseball diamond? They play other schools at other schools, but the return games cannot be played at DeWitt simply because they have no place to play. Our team played Wacousta at Wacousta but Grand Ledge was called upon to furnish a field for the return game. Must other places furnish baseball diamonds for DeWitt's baseball team? *The Looking Glass, May 1930*

NEWZ FROM EARLY PAPERS

Courtesy of archives staff & other discerning researchers.

Wild Times

Indians Once Camped Near Clinton Avenue

What was St. Johns like when it was only a clearing in the wilderness?

Miss **Marian Clark** of St. Johns has a Republican-News clipping from 1928 containing an interview with **Anson D. Clark**, who died on July 7 of that year after having lived here 74 years.

Clark had seen St. Johns grow from a tiny backwoods settlement and remembered when Clinton avenue was a stump-filled lane.

He Said in the newspaper interview: "Yes, I remember when most of St. Johns was timber land. I was born in Watertown township in 1853 and in the same year my father moved to St. Johns. He bought 40 acres of land about where the court house now stands and began clearing it. Later our home burned and father sold the land.

"At that time St. Johns was only a little clearing in the woods with space for the street which is now Clinton avenue, although there were many stumps left in the street.

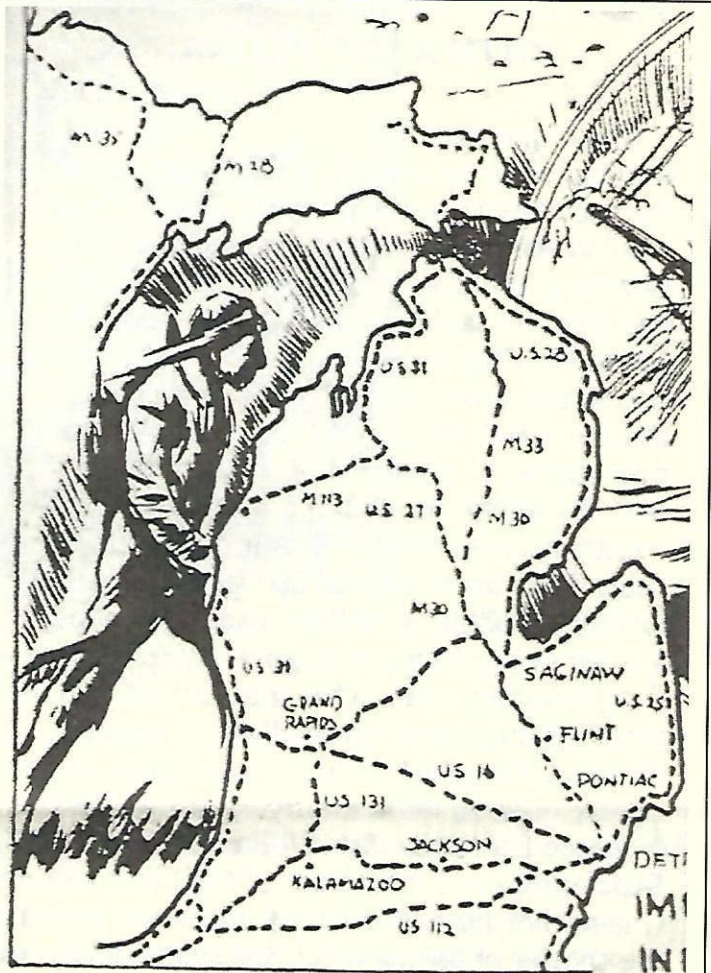
There Were Indians who came to St. Johns once a year to get their money from the government, and they would camp out in the woods west of the street.

"At one time there were several hundred of them assembled near what is now Lansing street and as there was plenty of whisky to be had in those days there were some wild times."

"They made things interesting for the whites with their screeching and screaming. Two squaws got into a fight one night and one pushed the other into the fire, and she was severely burned."

"When still just a boy I helped my father set out many of the shade trees now in St. Johns, and I remember how tired I used to get carrying bundles of small trees on my back."

CCRN 2 May 1956



Most of Michigan's Important Highways follow Old Indian Trails....

If you would like to view more information regarding these trails, below is a webpage from Michigan State University that lists the Indian Trails of Michigan

http://web2.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/indian_trails.html

AN ONION SHOWER.

FRACTIOUS HORSES RAISE MISCHIEF WITH A LOADED WAGON.

One of the most rapid attempts at a free distribution of onions which had taken place since the secretary of agriculture engaged in the work was indulged in by a team belonging to **J. H. Gregory**, of Olive, Monday afternoon. The horses had been hitched near the D. & M. freight house where Mr. Gregory was unloading a big double wagon box which was full to the top of onions. A passing switch engine frightened the team and they started to run and in doing so ran into the rear of another big load of the same pungent vegetables belonging to **Frank Crane** which stood near. Both teams started up Oakland street on the fun and at every lunge they made several pecks of the red skinned specimens rose playfully into the air and settled down in the dusty street. Up the steep hill they went, onions flying in every direction, the street fairly red with them, and a very "weary" looking farmer hurrying along after the frightened animals. **Jay Williams** and **A. U. Stockwell** were the heroes of the hour; mounting wheels they hurried after the teams and dodging the shower of onions which still continued to rain in the rear of the wagons, they each succeeded in climbing in and both brought their teams to a standstill. The return trip and reloading was a slow affair and the street for several blocks looked as if the first snow storm had been a blunder and onions utilized instead of snowflakes. The residents all along the block were out the door yards gazing in silent wonder at the street filled with the strong smelling roots, as if they imagined some modern Nero had really ordered a free distribution of vegetables to the entire populace. *SJN 4 Nov 1897*

A FLYING BEET

IN PATH OF ELECTRIC CAR DID DESTRUCTIVE WORK

On Tuesday when a car on the Lansing -St. Johns electric railway passed a group of farmers shovelling beets into a freight car on a siding, one of the beets went astray, hitting the window in front of the motorman. The force broke the glass and the motorman was struck with flying pieces. The stovepipe was knocked off the heater and the window back of the motorman was broken. *CR 21 Dec 1911*

EPIDEMIC

The following deaths were listed in the *Maple Rapids Dispatch* on 12 Jul 1884. *The Clinton Republican* reported on 3 Jul 1884 that Wilma May Creasinger died of diphtheria, but mention of the other deaths was not found in that newspaper.

Creasinger

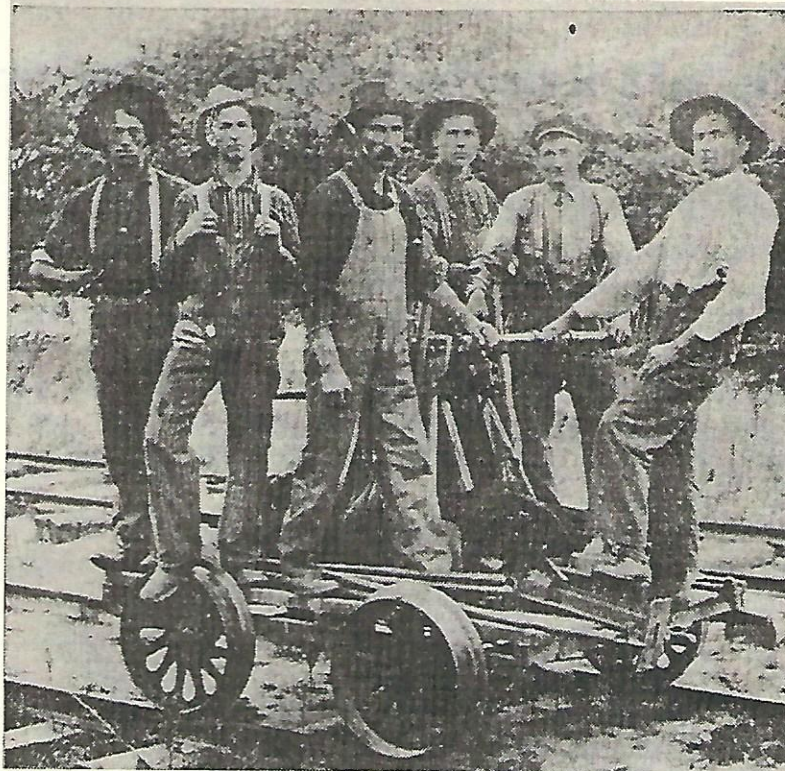
- On Saturday, June 28, Eltha, a three-year-old daughter of the late B. Creasinger and wife.
- On Sunday, July 6th, Wilma May, only remaining child of the above parents.

Archer

- On Monday, June 30, Ernest, a three-year-old son of George Archer and wife of North Shade [Gratiot Co.].
- On Saturday, July 5th, Mary, an 11-year old daughter of the above parents.

Freer

- On Tuesday, July 8th, Minnie G. , daughter of Henry Freer and wife, of Essex, aged 12 years.
- On Thursday, July 10, Bertha, daughter of the above parents, aged 8 years.



THESE WORKMEN ABOARD THIS OLD HANDCAR USED TO KEEP THE LANSING-ST. JOHNS INTERURGBAN RIGHT OF WAY SHIPSHAPE.

Here is an old picture which will remind patrons of the interurban electric line which linked Lansing & St. Johns and DeWitt, of the days when one boasted of having made the round trip and of having returned with no teeth loose and all bones in proper placements and positions. For, as old readers know, in the early days of this piece of railroad engineering, the Lansing-St. Johns line held the brass medal for the roughest piece of going in the state.

But it was the boys on the old handcar who smoothed out the wrinkles in the rails and readjusted the roadbed and by their efforts finally ironed the road into a smoothness so that any undulating or eccentric motions handed to the passengers might honestly be laid to the company's cars which had hone too many springs in the car trucks nor the seats.

The picture was handed to ye olde album editor by **Frank Mull** who once worked on the line and who lived near "Morton's Stop" in Clinton Co.

And, according to Mr. Mull, the handcar, motorized by hand power and backaches, was a means of transportation which was slow even with a brisk stern wind.

Standing on the old handcar are **"Buck" Monroe**, sporting a black hat; **William Loomis**, who ran to white hat and a gallant display of galluses; **William Scott**, foreman--the man with the mustache and a muscular hand fondly resting on a hated pump handle; and **Joe VanAmburg**, who is standing on the front of the car. On the "off side" of the car are **Cliff Dunn** and **Alfred St. Claire**.

The old handcar with its human load and its cargo of railroad right of way maintenance tools, was evidently just ready to pull out for some spot in this crew's section which needed "smoothin'" The original photograph from which this newspaper picture was made was taken, according to Mr. Mull, in 1905.

Thirty-three years ago the old Lansing-St. Johns line was busy and its right of way kept in good shape. Today the old line, long ago abandoned, the rails torn up and the railroad ties turned into fire wood or fence posts, may still be sketched by the mounds which formed the roadbed for the rails. Some of the old right of way is used for pasture. But along most of it there flourish buses and trees and weeds, the natural sign of the neglect of man. *LSJ 20 mar 1938*

List of Interurban Waiting Shelters

Submitted by Norm

Below is a list of each of the waiting shelters, in geographic order, for the St. Johns line. You'll see the list starts with Valley Farm and works it way north toward St. Johns

Valley Farm - Built 1918	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 8' 4" x 10'-0"
Briggs [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-3" x 12'-3" x 10'-4"
Bratton's Road [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 10'-3" x 9'-6"
Moot's Road [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 10'-0" x 10'-6" x 9'-9"
DeWitt Station [Built 1909]	One Story Brick Building on Concrete Foundation: 26'-7" x 34'-7" x 13'-0"
DeWitt [Built 1909]	Outhouse: Frame 4'-2" x 5'-2" x 7'-6"
Dewitt [Built 1906]	Tool House: Frame 12'-5" x 20'-4" x 10'-6"
Town Line [Built 1910]	Waiting Shelter: Frame [No dimensions listed]
Platforms [Built 1910]	Platforms : 4 Wood
Claytons [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 12'-4" x 8' 6"
Lochers [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-3" x 12'-0" x 8'-9"
Alward Lake [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 12'-2" x 8'-4"
Schwabs [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 10'-6" x 8'-0"
Merle Beach [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 9'-0" x 11'-0" x 9'-6"
Drake's Crossing [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-4" x 12'-4" x 9'-0"
Morton's [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-2" x 12'-4" x 9'-0"
[Built 1910]	Platforms: 5 Wood
Gallops [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-2" x 12'-4" x 9'-0"
County Farm [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame 8'-6" x 12'-6" x 8'-6"
Beadles [Built 1906]	Waiting Shelter: Frame [No dimensions listed]
[Built 1910]	Platforms : 2 Wood
St. Johns [Built 1910]	Tool House: Frame 12'-6" x 26'-0" x 10'-0"
St. Johns, Railroad Street [Built 1906]	Freight House: Frame 12'-2" x 16'-2" x 11'-0"

Assists in Capturing Booth: Dies in West at age of 101

----- Claimed Sole Knowledge of Assassin's Burial Place -----

Mason-- Rudolph Loomis, circuit court stenographer, recently received word of the death of his uncle, Egbert Ingersoll, which occurred a few days ago at Los Angeles, California. Mr. Ingersoll died at the age of 101 years. Since Mr. Ingersoll's death, Mr. Loomis has released some interesting facts in regard to his uncle. Mr. Ingersoll participated in the capture of John Wilkes Booth, the murderer of Abraham Lincoln being in the secret service with Colonel Baker. Until a few months ago, Mr. Ingersoll was the only man who knew the burial place of Booth and he always refused to give away his secret. Unless he did so within the last few weeks, no one now knows the burial ground. *St. Johns News* 7 Jun 1923

PAY TO THE ORDER OF...

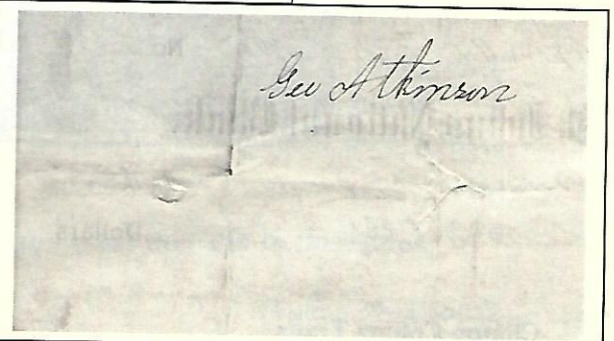
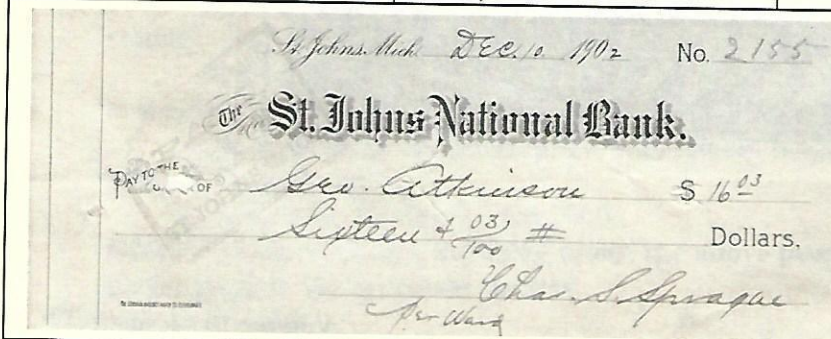
Submitted by Julie Peters

We genealogists strive to find anything about our past relatives and the littlest thing can bring such joy and totally make our day. The Clinton County Historical Society Archive is in possession of endorsed checks dated November and December 1902 from Charles S. Sprague. Mr. Sprague was the owner of the local elevator for many years. He was also a buyer of wool and live stock.

The ironic part is that **Mr. & Mrs. Sprague** had only one daughter, **Lily**. Lily married **Myron Ward** and they didn't have any children. Therefore that limb of the Sprague tree ended but because someone saved the cancelled checks, some of us can gain yet another piece of our history.

Here is the list of names that did business with Mr. Sprague. You can contact the Archive if you would like to see/add a signature that is more than a century old, to your collection of family history.

ATKINSON, George	HAMMOND, G. E.	RICE, FRANK
BAKER, F. M.	HOSSE, H.	RIDDLE, William
BARNHART, Newton	HENRY, Charles	ROSEKRANS, W. L.
BEDLE, J. A.	HEUER, Robert	ROWELL, S. (2)
BEHRENS, Chris	HEUER, William (2)	SAUNAGEOT, L. E.
BIGELOW, George (2)	HILL, B. W.	SILVERS, John
BILLS, C. E.	HOERNER, H M.	SKINNER, John F.
BISHOP, J.	HUBER, Fred	SMILEY, Charles
BLACK, W. J. (2)	HUOT, Fred	SMITH, C. L.
BLEMASTER, Joe	JENNINGS, B.	SMITH, L.
BOTSFORD, Ernest	JONES, Charles	SMITH, William
BRITTON, H.	JURY, Thomas	SNYDER, B. G.
BROWN, Wilbur	KEYS, Stephen P.	SPRAGUE, Charles (4)
BULLARD, A. G.	KIPP, William	STEADMAN, D. L.
CARPENTER, Lewis	LAMBERSON, R. M.	STEVENS, Ben
CHANT, Arthur	LAPAN, Edward	SPERRY, Ed
CLARK, Luther	LELAND, William	STOCKER, W. E.
CRANDALL, C. A.	LOVE, John	WALKER, A. A.
CRANE, E. (2)	MC DONALD, M	WATSON, H. J.
DAVIES, J. (2)	MERRIHEW, J. F.	WELLER, J.
ELLIS, Bert (3)	NEWMAN, O. E.	WELLER, M. (MD.)
FUGUER, George (2)	PEARSON, W. H.	WHITNEY, J.
GEORGIA, R.	PLOWMAN, C. E.	WILLIAMS, F. (2)
GODDARD, Frank	RAMSEY, S. (2)	WILLIAMS, V.
GRAHAM, Margart	REDDOUT, W. N.	ZIGLER, G.
GREGORY, Robert	RICE, C. M.	



Sharing a Family Memory

Submitted by LaRene [VanEpps] Smith

My parents, **Cliff and Bess Van Epps** had a cabin on Lake Four near Gladwin, Michigan as all of their five children with our children were growing up. Many weekends, we would have wall-to-wall floor sleepers under these extra long "double double" blankets, which meant they were for a double bed BUT were "double" in length so you put one end under you and folded the other end up over the top, keeping our feet and shoulders warm. We loved these warm, cozy blankets with their intricate patterns. Two or three children would snuggle inside these blankets, giggling and talking about their day of fun, swimming, mushroom hunting, and fishing.

After our parents passed, we two sisters, **Eloise Falor** and I, and two sisters-in-law, **Myrna Van Epps** and **Fran Van Epps**, searched our brains trying to figure out how to share these blankets. There weren't enough for everyone to have one. After all, there were 22 of us and only a few blankets. What could we do to pass these blankets along to everyone. Our creative sisters-in-law suggested BEARS! So, bears it would be. We had so much fun making these bears and matching blanket patterns to the tummy, feet, arms and face of each bear. After a "labor of love", we added touches of lace, hats, and buttons. We were as excited making the bears and anticipating giving them to the family as the family was when they received them. Now every sibling and grandchild has a cherished memory of their loving parents and grandparents, reminding them of the good times at the cabin. These bears adorn beds, dressers and other special spots in our homes, hearts and memories.



St. Johns High School Class of 1922

This has been a busy week in the schools, the exercises beginning with a splendid baccalaureate sermon by **Rev. Binkhorst** at the Congregational Church Sunday morning. The graduates are:

Lena Louise Besley was born in St. Johns 18 years ago. She is fond of languages and will be a teacher.

Earl Wm. Castle, 18, was born in Ovid. He is inclined to science and mathematics and expects to go to college.

Alice A. Chapman, 18, was born in Chesaning. She preferred mathematics and will become a stenographer.

Mayme Magadeline Fedewa, 17, was born in St. Johns. She is fond of languages and ambitious to become a musician. [Mayme became a special education teacher in Detroit and was also a piano teacher]

Maude Loretta Gilson, 17, was born in Greenbush. She has a mathematical turn and will become a teacher.

Blanche May Goette, 20, was also born in St. Johns and prefers languages over other studies. She will take a post-graduate course in German.

Lulu May Hamilton, 20, was born in Bingham. She likes history but is undecided as to the future.

Maude S. Hart, 19, was born in Greenbush. She has not decided upon the future. Her favorite study is languages.

Helen Mable Holton, 18, was born in St. Johns. She prefers languages and will become a teacher.

Raymond Perrin Hull, 18, was born in Grand Rapids. He is a mathematician and will become an undertaker.

Helen Esther McCabe, 17, was born in St. Johns. She preferred the languages and will pursue the study of music.

Julia Janette McCracken, 18, was born in Maple Rapids. Languages were her favorite study. She isn't bothering herself as to the future.

Olive Walker Munger, 17, was born in St. Johns. She is fond of the study of languages and will go to college.

Ernest J. Parr, was born in Essex. He is of a scientific turn but has not decided as to the future.

Edith May Rahl, 19, was born in Bingham, preferred the study of mathematics and will be a teacher.

Iva Louise Sturgis, 18, was born in Bengal. She, too, preferred the study of mathematics and will be a teacher.

Myron Ellsworth Ward, 17, was born in Bingham. He is fond of literature and expects to become a teacher. [Myron was mayor of St. Johns at one time.]

John Edward Watkin, 19, was born in St. Johns. He preferred the languages and expects to go to college.

Vernon Charles West, 19, was born in Jackson County; literature favorite study; undecided as to the future.

John Leon Wheat, 18, was born in St. Johns. Literature and history were his favorite studies. He has not decided as to an occupation or profession.

Mable May Woodard, 18, is the only one in the class born outside of Michigan. Waterford, in the old Empire state, was her birth place. She prefers the languages and will go to college.

Lee Ellsworth Woodbury, 17, was born in Bingham, is fond of mathematics. He has not decided as to the future.

Clinton Republican; 21 Jun 1900

NOTE: If anyone know anything about the above people, and what they did in their lives, please contact the genealogy society.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Living the Good News; St. Joseph Catholic Church Directory; 2013

Le Cid; St. Johns High School yearbook; 1923
Ovid Centennial 1869-1969; historical program

Photographs:

Eureka Baseball Team ca 1918-1919
Stanford L. Besse

Essex Boys Athletic Club

Maple Rapids Dispatch- 6 May 1915

The boys will have a field day at Maple Rapids Saturday afternoon at 1:30. A number of prizes will be given for the different events as follows:

- Running broad jump - 1st prize box of candy; 2nd one lb. peanuts. For boys under 13 years of age 1 lb. candy
- 100 yard dash - 1st prize necktie clasp, 2nd one lb. chocolates. Boys under 13, pocket knife
- 220 yard dash - 1st prize , pair of suspenders; 2nd one lb. candy. Boys under 13, baseball
- Hop Step and Jump - 1st prize, ball bat; 2nd one lb. peanuts. For boys under 13, one lb. candy.
- Running High Jump - 1st prize, necktie; 2nd one lb. candy

After the sports are over the boys from the south part of the township will play ball game with the boys of the village and at 5 p.m. supper will be served to all the boys who are members of the club.

All boys from 10 to 17 years of age may become members of the club.

SURNAMES OF RESEARCH - 2014

Diane Stanuszek; 324 Jay St., St Charles, MI 48655
Randolf, Tripp, Hall, Sawyer, Jaquish

Volkmann, Janice L; PO Box 474, Altus OK 73522-0474; frj@srcaccess.net; Carpenter, Green Chant, Miller, Kirk

Alice M. Ward, 531 S Francis Ave, Lansing, MI 48912-3815; Parks, Sargent, Howe, Hollister

Kathy Buffington Willett; 2213 Saratoga Ln, Glendora , CA 91741; kbwillett@att.net; Brewer, Drake

Tom Troppe; 38 Greenbrier Ave, Selinsgrove, PA 17870; troppe@verizon.net; Lyon, Nichols/Nicholas

Diane Fish; 12536 Clintonia Rd, Portland, MI 48875; newfishes1@frontier.com; Juenker, Pung, Fish, Smith, Trierweiler

Cynthia Theusch; 2715 Northgate Blvd, Apt 4, Fort Wayne, IN 46835-2907; geniebug1215@gmail.com; Linn, Springsteen, Arksey, Jayne

The Sophomores give a "Toe Social" at the Grange Hall Saturday night. An urgent invitation is extended to all. Games will be provided. Come at eight o'clock and have a good night of fun and a good supper afterward. Ladies bring well filled baskets.

Maple Rapids Dispatch- 6 May 1915



Class 1918 - Bath High School

ARCHIVES CLOSED 2014

*The Senior Class
of the
Bath High School
request your presence
at their
Commencement Exercises
Friday evening, May twenty-fourth
nineteen hundred and eighteen
I. O. O. F. Hall*

Class Officers

Marvel E. Jenison, President
Harold G. Baurele, Sec'y-Treas.

Class Roll

Marvel E. Jenison Howard Walling
Harold G. Baurele Mabel S. Sweet

Class Motto

"Labor Conquers All Things."

Class Flotant

White Carnation

Class Colors

Green and White

Principal—C. J. Shufelt

July 4	Independence Day
Sept. 1	Labor Day
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 27-28	Thanksgiving
Dec 24-31	Christmas

The **Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society** is located at 16101 Brook Road in Dewitt Township 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 Thursday. Phone: 517-482-5117 Ext. 2. E-mail: ccgensoc@yahoo.com Web page: dewittlibrary.org/CCHS. CCHS members have free usage of the Archives, non-member cost: \$5.00 fee per day.

The **Historical Society** meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm Nov. through March and at 7:00 p.m. Apr. through Oct. at the First United Methodist Church on State Street, at the northeast corner of the courthouse in St. Johns, with entry through the south backdoors. Regular meetings are not held in June & December.

The **Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum** complex is located on the west side of the courthouse square in St. Johns. www.pgsmuseum.com. To join the Friends of the Museum, contact them at: pgs.museum@hotmail.com; or PGS Museum, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Mr./Mrs/Miss _____

List 5 Names you are Researching: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ New _____ Renewal _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____

Send me Clinton County Trails by e-mail yes no

Annual Dues to join both the Clinton County Historical Society and the Genealogy Committee are \$15.00 single and \$20.00 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.

Query: My name is Maureen Bishop Gilna. My father was once a member of your historical society. He had in his possession, and is now in mine, a letter from Ronald A. Meyer. This hand written letter was sent on March of 1945 from the war front in Germany to my parents. Mr. Meyer was a conservation officer for Clinton County before his enlistment in the army. My father was a conservation officer for Shiawassee County. They were friends. Mr. Meyer lost his life on may 6, 1945 in Normandy, France. I have been trying to find a relative of Mr. Meyer to give this letter to. Would it be possible for me to send you this letter and have it published in hope of finding such a person. Thank you, Maureen Gilna.

If anyone can assist with information regarding Ronald Meyer please contact the Clinton County genealogical society or by email: ccgensoc@yahoo.com.