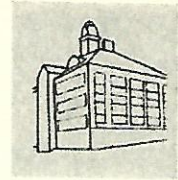




CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS

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SINCE 1849

by Mrs. D. H. Parr

Following is the contents of the booklet, "Since 1849" by Mrs. D. H. Parr, for the 75th anniversary of the Hicks store, published in 1924. It give information of early life in DeWitt/St. Johns and the life of John C. Hicks Store. The booklet was discontinued in 1961.

FOREWORD:

To my father, **John Hicks**, pioneer merchant who established the John C. Hicks store seventy-five years ago, is dedicated this record of the early life of St. Johns.

Upon reaching the venerable age of seventy-five years, it is only natural for this store to pause a moment and look back to the early days of its existence.

This is one reason for presenting "Since 1849" as a souvenir of our Diamond Anniversary. The other reason is this: Every man, woman and child living in St. Johns should know the picturesque history of our home town--St. Johns.

Residents in other parts of Clinton County, we believe, are also sufficiently interested in the county seat to justify the publication of this book.

This treatise is not exhaustive. The facts it contains have been gathered from pages of local history; newspaper files have been consulted; and some of the oldest inhabitants have furnished interesting reminiscences of the early days of St. Johns **John C. Hicks** [signature]
St. Johns, Michigan, 15 Dec 1924.

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Early History of St. Johns

"Wonder what's the matter with Jed? We're running short of tobacco and he's over a week late."

John Hicks closed the door of his DeWitt trading post and joined the group about the fire.



"Wish I had told him to bring some calico," he mused.

"Say, John, when they get the railroad through, you'll have an easy life," commented the trapper who had come to trade his pelts.

"If this new-fangled telegraph amounts to what they say it will, and if there was one strung up now between here and Detroit and if the railroad was through now so that you could send a message, you could get that calico maybe tomorrow," suggested the farmer.

"There is going to be a telegraph here some day," predicted **John Hicks**.

The suggestion met with general laugh.

"Not until maybe they don't need wires," said the trapper. "Who would ever think of putting up wires out here in the country!"

The faint tinkle of bells and the sound of horses' hoofs interrupted the conversation and announced that Jed had arrived from Detroit with a shipment of goods.

John Hicks opened the door and exchanged greetings with the new arrival.

"Say John, could you use a bolt of calico?" shouted Jed from the driver's seat. "Something told me you needed some."

"There!" exclaimed the trapper triumphantly. "That's telegraphing without wires."

In a little cabin in DeWitt in the year of 1849, John Hicks began business with his uncle, **David Sturges**. He was twenty-five years of age. DeWitt was the county seat; St. Johns was a wilderness at that time. Michigan was sparsely populated; there were few roads; at certain times of the year the trails through the forest that covered Clinton County were almost impassable.

In 1853, while the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad was being slowly extended from Detroit, a party of Lansing officials formed a company to purchase land along the railroad right-of-way in anticipation of future town-sites. The four Lansing officials were: **John Swegles**, Auditor General; **Porter Kibby**, Commissioner of the Land Office; **B. C. Wittemore**, State Treasurer; and **R. S. Mead**, Deputy Attorney-General.

Through **John Higham**, chief engineer of the new railroad, they definitely learned that a station was to be built where St. Johns now stands. John Swegles was immediately delegated to purchase this land. **George W. Estes**, who represented the owners, Mr. Swegles bought eighty acres, and immediately began the surveying of the proposed village.

The village site was covered with pine trees. Chopping was the first work necessary; so Mr. Swegles built a steam saw mill which was finished in the winter of 1854-55.

A group of inhabitants gathered together one day for the purpose of selecting a name for this embryo village which was attracting wide attention. Wittemoreville, Meadville and Sturgesville were discussed. St. Johns was finally decided upon as a compromise in honor of John Swegles.

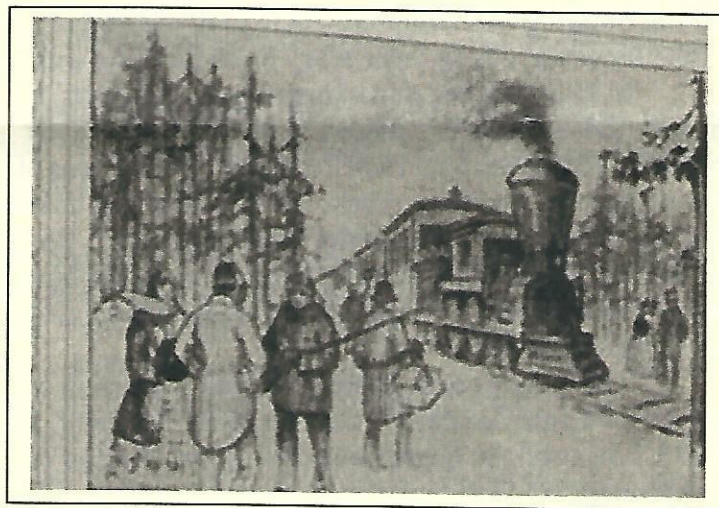
The news of the christening of the village travelled quickly throughout the neighboring country. **John T. Newell** arrived in St. Johns but a few days after the name was decided upon, with goods for the opening of a store. His boxes were labeled "St. Johns". **George Estes** took the cover from one of the boxes and tacked it on a tree, the name "St. Johns" standing out in bold relief. It was not until several years later, however, that the name was officially accepted by the company owning the village site.



In 1856 the first post office in the township of Bingham was established in the home of **George W. Estes**, who was appointed postmaster. It is said that the first mail brought to St. Johns was carried in the mail rider's hat and that the first postmaster kept his office in a cigar box.

The village was platted on march 25, 1856. The document on file at the county register's office is signed by the following: **Nelson P. Stewart, Mary Ann Stewart, B. C. Wittemore, Caroline Wittemore, Charles L. Dibble, Sarah I. Dibble, Robert Higham, Elvira Higham, Orville Clark, Delia M. Clark & Asahel Clark.**

On January 16, 1857 the first passenger train arrived in St. Johns from Detroit over the newly laid track of the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad.



It was then that John Hicks, who had bought out his uncle's interest in the DeWitt store, was satisfied that St. Johns held more opportunities for him than did DeWitt. He moved to St. Johns, renewing partnership with his uncle who had already established a general store in St. Johns.

The first white child born in the village was **George A. Estes**. The first doctor to move to St. Johns was D. C. Stewart in 1854. G. W. Stephenson opened a tailor shop on Clinton Avenue the following year.

The year 1857 marked the real beginning of the growth of St. Johns. A village school house was built. **John Ransom** started the "North Side Democrat" newspaper. **Archelaus Silsbee** opened a foundry; **H. D. Hodge**, a bank; **W. W. Brainard**, a carpenter's and builder's shop.

St. Johns began to take on importance as a shipping point when John Hicks in 1857, shipped the first carload of wheat forwarded from the village by rail.

On May 5, 1857, **Geo. W. Emmons** opened an addition known as Emmonsville. It was later made part of St. Johns. It is now known as Emmons' Addition.

The first officials of the incorporated village of St. Johns in 1859, were: **W. W. Flagler**, president; **John Ransom**, clerk; **Geo. W. Estes**, treasurer. The trustees were: **Ransom Plumstead, Archelaus Silsbee, James W. Hungerfore, W. L. Hicks, Geo. W. Stephenson** and **Geo. W. Emmons.**

The first sermon preached in St. Johns was delivered in the autumn of 1855 by **Rev. J. S. Harder**, then riding the circuit of Duplain as a Methodist Episcopal preacher. Two years later, **Rev. William G. Smith** organized the first Presbyterian Church with four members---**James Ransom**, his brother **John W. Ransom** and their two wives. The first Baptist Church of St. Johns was organized in 1856 with eleven charter members as follows: **Rev. C. A. Lamb, Alvira Lamb, Rev. John Gunderman, Eliza Gunderman, H. W. Hale, John O. Palmer, Sanford Wait, Phoebe Whitlock, William Green, Rachel Green and Mr. Hiscock**. In 1857 the first meeting house was erected and for five years was the only house of worship in St. Johns. It was the temporary church home of other denominations while their churches were being built.

The St. Johns (Protestant Episcopal) Church was organized on May 25, 1858. The St. Johns (Roman Catholic) Church began building in 1864, completed its church in 1865 and dedicated it in 1867. The German Lutheran Church was founded in 1870. **John Hicks** was active in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Johns in 1871. He was Chairman of its Board and one of its Trustees.

The first school taught in St. Johns was a select school in charge of **Miss Marie Coryell**. The school was held in a shanty on Walker street, used before that as a blacksmith's shop. In 1856 the first public school was established and classes were held in the same place. During the following year John Hicks was appointed chairman of the building committee for the construction of a schoolhouse. It was decided that three thousand dollars should be raised. To this "extravagant appropriation" the taxpayers objected. A legal battle ensued. The tax payers' objection was sustained by the courts. The district, therefore, decided that five hundred dollars would suffice to build the school house. The school building was completed in the fall of 1858 at a cost of four hundred and ninety-five dollars. In 1865, however, a new three story brick building was constructed at a cost of \$10,450.

In 1858 the fire department was organized. A hook-and-ladder was purchased, which was merely the addition of a ladder to the old time bucket brigade. At a meeting on April 3, 1860, the trustees of the village decided to purchase for five-hundred dollars the fire engine belonging to the Eagle Engine Co., No. 2, of Detroit. A hose cart and three hundred feet of hose were also secured. Two reservoirs were constructed on Clinton Avenue.

The citizens of St. Johns were mighty proud of their new Eagle fire department and its equipment. In 1873, however, the Eagle's own fire-house burned to the ground. The following year Fireman's Hall was built.

The pioneer bank of St. Johns was started in 1857 by **H. C. Hodge**, on the west side of Clinton Avenue, south of Walker street. The business was carried on until 1864.

The first National Bank was organized in 1865. **Charles Kipp** was chosen president; **John Hicks**, vice-president; and **S. S. Walker**, cashier. Its original building cost the bank seventeen dollars.

In 1860 **R. M. Steel** became a resident of St. Johns. In the years that followed, **Mr. Steel** contributed greatly to the welfare of St. Johns. With **John Hicks**, he constructed many beautiful brick buildings. He founded the St. Johns' Manufacturing Company, which for years furnished employment to hundreds of St. Johns' citizens.

John Hicks began buying grain in 1858; in 1860 he built a warehouse. At the time of his death he was the oldest grain merchant as well as dry goods merchant in Clinton County.



REMINISCENCES

In preparing this souvenir for our Diamond Anniversary, we have asked a few of the pioneers who remain, to give their recollections of St. Johns since 1849.

The reminiscences of **Douglas Meade, George A. Estes and Anson Clark**, three living pioneers, were not obtainable at the time this booklet was prepared.

GEORGE S. CORBIT, 104 Cass Street, for several years the Editor of the "Clinton Independent" among other things remembers Clinton Avenue before it was paved. "My first impression of St. Johns upon arriving from New York in 1857, is still a vivid one. It was in the spring of the year. Clinton Avenue was a quagmire. The mud was so deep that the dray which carried the mail became stuck. It was marooned there for several hours."

"At one time an improvised causeway, consisting of planks resting on large wooden horses, was built across Clinton Avenue. I can still see women with their wide skirts balancing themselves on the narrow walk. In the spring and fall of the year it was almost impossible for anyone to get into town."

"When the courthouse was built, every man in town helped to clear the land. After our day's work we would pull stumps and burn brush; for St. Johns was covered with pine trees in those days."

"After the courthouse was built, it was fenced in. A man by the name of Upton contracted with the village to cut the hay on the courthouse lawn. Every year he harvested the hay and paid the village five dollars for it."

"I was a member of the fire department. In those days almost every man was fireman. We worked without pay."

"I remember when we could shoot wild pigeons at the corner of Clinton and Walker streets."

"I can remember the time when the total cash receipts of some stores amounted to only fifteen cents for the day."

"When I came to St. Johns, John Hicks was in business in a little frame building that later burned down. Mr. Hicks was a very fair, honest man in business. He applied himself to his work very closely, but he always found time to be of benefit to the town."

DR. D. S. FRENCH, formerly secretary of the St. Johns' manufacturing Company, recalls some interesting events. "People who visit St. Johns often are impressed with the beauty and the solid construction of the buildings in our business blocks. The Hicks and Steel Block was one of the finest built in its day. It has been the model after which others have been designed."

"I can remember the daily stage coaches that carried the mail from St. Johns to Ithaca and St. Louis. They were the true western type drawn by four horses."

"John Hicks ran his foundry not so much for profit that was in it as for the benefit it was to the community and the farmer especially."

SAM GREEN, one of the earliest settlers in Clinton county remembers when there was practically no money in circulation.

"How would you like to live nowadays and have no money? Imagine yourself going into Spaulding & Company and saying: 'I'll swap you a bushel of wheat for a hammer.' Or, if you went into a drug store with this offering: 'Here is a muskrat skin. I want an ice cream soda.'"

"Don't laugh. That is what you would have had to do back in 1849. Nobody had money in those days. Almost everything was bought and sold through barter."

"I sold my first wheat to John Hicks. He gave me thirty-five cents a bushel for it. I took strawberries and supplies in exchange."

"There wasn't much money---but we lived. I'm eighty-seven years old and I was brought up on Johnny cake."

"I can remember when there wasn't a sign of a building where St. Johns stands today. In those days there were many wolves and bears prowling among the woods that covered this territory."

"I came here in 1845. **John Hicks** started in business in DeWitt four years later. In those days he had a reputation with everyone for good merchandise. He said no store could expect to remain in business very long unless it sold the best merchandise. I guess old TIME has proven he was right." Since 1849, the John C. Hicks store has been uninterruptedly in business--an institution in St. Johns. It is the oldest dry goods store in Clinton County. The outstanding principle which has made it successful during the past seventy-five years---the principle laid down by John Hicks---is and will continue to be strictly adhered to. That principle is quality merchandise sold at fair prices."

BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

Newz from Early Papers - courtesy of archives staff & other discerning researchers

Clinton Republican and *St. Johns News* files reveal cross section of former days in Clinton county
[CCRN 10 Aug 33]

40 Years ago [1893]

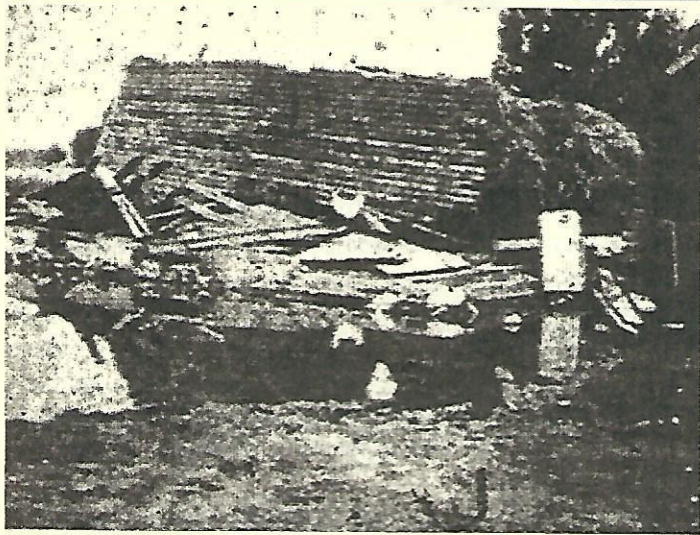
- **M. L. Kenyon** will at once commence the erection of a brick building 50x120 feet in the rear of the old Anstry house to be used for a feed barn. This in connection with the large barn he has already built will make one of the largest and finest barns in Central Michigan.
- **Henry Lyvere**, 63, farmer living near Ovid was found dead at his home Sunday night. He had been shot in the back and suspicion points to John Lape, brother of Lynere's wife.
- Over 100 people attended the Clark school reunion.
- **John Hicks** has been buying wheat in Clinton county since 1849. He sold a car [of wheat] yesterday for the least money he ever took for wheat since he began buying it.
- The Buffalo inventors are at work on a new bicycle which they claim can be run by a gas engine weighing but two pounds. The hollow frame of the bicycle will be used as a storage tank for the gasoline from which power is derived by a series of explosions in the four cylinders of the engine. They claim it will be able to make nearly a mile a minute.
- Professor **D. B. Yntema**, superintendent of St. Johns schools the past 16 years has resigned to accept the chair of chemistry and physics at Hope College.

- The cornerstone of the new St. Johns' Episcopal church will be laid today with appropriate ceremonies.
- Growing crops have suffered seriously from drought the past two weeks.

"SHE IS HE" July 27, 1933 CCRN



Joseph Zurcher, above, 200-pound laundry worker of Los Gatos, Calif. is not trying to get even with the women for starting the trouser fad. He wears women's clothes regularly while he works because they're cooler and easier to put on, take off and keep clean. He has just finished swinging a pick to show how feminine clothing allows freedom of movement.



MILKING STOPS WHEN BARN LEAVES

Remains of the Fred Pasch Barn in Dallas Twp.

Edwin Pasch was busy at the evening milking late Sunday afternoon in the shelter of his father's barn when all of the sudden the roof over his head departed and he was out in a soaking rain. Edwin had failed to note the approaching storm and to say the least was considerable surprised when a blast of wind took the barn away from him. Luckily he escaped with minor injuries and so did bossy. However, the milk, so to speak, was spilled. [CCRN 1933]

Village Elections

[CR Feb 1866]

The annual election of officers for the corporation of St. Johns will be held at the Engine House, on Tuesday, the 6th day of march next, at which time the following officers will be chosen by ballot for the ensuing year, viz; A President, Clerk, Treasurer, six Trustees, two Assessors, two Street Commissioners, two Fire Wardens, a Marshal and Pound master. The Republicans can carry this village, if they but do their duty.

Here is information about the Engine House taken from <http://clintonnorthernrailway.org/?q=history>

St. Johns First Depot

In December 1856, **John Ransom**, the editor of the St. Johns Democrat, said he "was indeed in a City of the Woods," which in 1856 was without a railroad and was much younger and smaller than DeWitt which was then the county seat. There was an old road that ran north to Rochester Colony and it crossed the to be railroad track where Mead Street is today. From there it went southwest and crossed where the courthouse is today and then angled sharply south to Dewitt.

Where this road crossed the yet to be built railroad bed was the site of the first depot and freight house in St. Johns. John Ransom also wrote in December of 1856, "**The Engine House** here is up and partly enclosed. It is calculated to accommodate four engines. Preparations are also being made for the erection of the Freight House, Passenger House and turntable, etc." he also wrote, "The deep cut at this place is nearly down to grade. It will be finished by the time the track layers get here." The deep cut is where the Whittemore street overpass is now located. At this date there was a big swamp west of Oakland street and the dirt from the deep cut was used for fill in this swamp for the new road bed. For some years there was a pond most of the year on the south side of the track and all year on the north side. There was no clearing of land north of the railroad for a number of years. St. Johns was the western terminus of the road for awhile as the road wasn't completed to Ionia until September 1857. Hibbards' daily line of stages for Lansing and Ionia met the passenger trains at the St. Johns depot. There was an eating house adjoining the west side of the depot for awhile, but this was later moved to Owosso.

GENEALOGY Noun, plural genealogies.

1. *A record or account of the ancestry and descent of a person, family, group, etc.*
[Webster's dictionary]

by Julie Peters, Director
Clinton County Historical Society Archives

When I was 32, my girlfriend saw an ad in the personal section of a local newspaper that said, "Happy 32nd Birthday July 1st to the sister I never knew. If you were born and adopted in St. Johns, please write or call..." It gave a name, phone number and address in California.

I had always known I was adopted but, being happy, I had never thought of searching for the blood relative's side of my life. In my mind, my Mom and Dad were my parents. I never thought of them as not being my "biological" parents.

So when the genealogy bug bit me, it wasn't the biological side I thought of. I wanted to know about the people who influenced the parents who influenced me.

That's when the search began. But why did I wait so long? What switch goes off that creates the desire one day to find out who the ancestors are? Why don't we listen more closely to the stories that our parents, grandparents, and if we are really lucky, our great grandparents tell? Of course, we all remember how dad had to walk 5 miles to school barefoot and uphill. Was that supposed to make me feel sorry for him or realize just how good I had it? I guess it worked on both counts. But compared to some of the trials and hardships I've since found in my searching that other family members went through, I hope my dad knew how lucky he was. I know how lucky I am.

In my search, I've learned that one of my Dad's relatives from England was caught stealing a sheep at age 22 and was sent to an Australian penal colony for 7 years.

My Great-Great-Grandpa on my Mom's side went crazy one day and murdered my Great-Great-Grandma with an ax and then turned around and stabbed himself in the neck. My Grand Uncle, age 11, found them. What trauma for a youngster. I never knew this story until I started writing down the genealogy and asked my mom how in the world did Great-Great-Grandpa and Great-Great-Grandma die on the same day?? Mom didn't realize that I had never heard the story.

We need to tell the stories. (Probably over and over.) They help us to understand each other and maybe get a glimpse of how our relatives felt, how they coped, and how they cared for each other.

Are we only like the people that are biologically related? Well, I did find out at age 32, I sound exactly like my biological sister who is 12 years older. And my handwriting looks just like the sister 19 years older. It truly is amazing how much you can be like someone you have never met.

But are they all who I am like? I can sew, crochet, and embroider like my Grandma. I can cook a mean roast beef and noodles like my Mom. I can fish and shoot a gun like my Dad. I can shoot pool behind my back because of my brother who was also adopted by Mom and Dad. It's funny because he is the oldest but they had me first. Do I have an artistic side because my biological mother did or was it from the art lessons I had when I was a kid?

We are products of our past and present. We, hopefully, can learn from the mistakes of others gone before us and the mistakes we made just yesterday. I, for one, will never steal a sheep in England! But I am excited to learn why he did.

Genealogy is our very own mystery to solve. It can open your eyes to a whole different world. It can become an obsession and you just can't wait to find out why your Great Aunt Alice joined the circus or why the sheep thief died back in England in a workhouse. Maybe for a while you can walk in their shoes.

Love for family is not only from the blood. My stepson has a daughter who has grown up knowing me as "Grandma." When she grew to the age of figuring out who comes from whom, she told me one day, "I know you're not my real Grandma. But I love you like one."

When she grows up and hopefully wants to do her family genealogy, will I just be a note on a line only telling that I had married her grandfather? Or will my time with her mean more than that? I hope so.

I can see where I am a product of both blood and being chosen. My life is the sum of all who I know and all who have gone before me. It's the journey of the search that can bring excitement when you see a relative's signature that is 100 + years old or find the piece of land on an old plat map where Great-Great-Grandpa and Great-Great-Grandma actually lived. The search can fill in the gaps of our lives and of those that have gone before us. Embrace it and enjoy it!

Local Mason Blue Lodge Held First meeting in 1857

continued from June Newsletter

1931 - Wm. Bearndt, K. B. Jackson, Clark Gregory, Geo. Marriott, 311	1940 - Elmer Irrer, Chas. main, Floyd Rosekrans, Geo. Marriott, 219	1949 - Vern Warner, Donald Smith, Wm. Robertson, Elmer Irrer, 308
1932 - J. Chas. Flynn, Chas. Austin, Lawrence Crosby, Geo. F. Marriott, 292	1941 - Floyd Rosekrans, Glenn Rosekrans, D. M. Anderson, Elmer Irrer, 201	1950 - Donald Smith, Glenn Simmons, Warren Coffman, Delbert Conklin, 314
1933 - Chas. Austin, John Walker, Elmer Irrer, Geo. Marriott, 271	1942 - Glenn Rosekrans, Dorr Anderson, Maxwell Smith, Elmer Irrer, 197	1951 - Glenn Simmons, Warren Coffman, Mark Eaton, Delbert Conklin, 313
1934 - Chas. Austin, Elmer Irrer, Geo. Black, Geo Marriott, 255	1943 - Dorr Anderson, Maxwell Smith, James Spousta, Elmer Irrer, 194	1952 - Warren Coffman, Mark Eaton, Wm. Bailey, Geo. Harter, 319
1935 - Glenn Tupper, Lawrence Crosby, Geo Black, Geo. Marriott, 229	1944 - Maxwell Smith, James Spousta, Horace Farley, Elmer Irrer, 208	1953 - Mark Eaton, Wm. Robertson, Gordon Hodge, Henry Dellar, 309
1936 - Lawrence Crosby, Clark Gregory, Geo. Black, Geo. Marriott, 229	1945 - James Spousta, Horace Farley, Richard Harris, Elmer Irrer, 248	1954 - Wm. Robertson, Gordon Hodge, Virgil Stevens, Henry Dellar, 313
1937 - Harry Doyle, Elmer Irrer, Frank Parks Jr., Geo. Marriott 217	1946 - Richard Harris, lloyd Atkinson, Glen Simmons, Elmer Irrer, 257	1955 - Gordon Hodge, Mark Eaton, Meyer Blackman, Henry Dellar, 301
1938 - Elmer Irrer, Chas. Main, Floyd Rosekrans, Gee. Marriott	1947 - Lloyd Atkinson, Delbert Conklin, Verne Warner, Elmer Irrer, 274	1956 - Mark Eaton, Meyer Blackman, Geo. McCurry, Henry Dellar, 296
1939 - Elmer Irrer, Chas. main, Floyd Rosekrans, Geo. Marriott, 219	1948 - Delbert Conklin, Verne Warner, Donald Smith, Elmer Irrer, 293	

ACQUISITIONS

GENEALOGIES:

- Lake, Sylvia; memorial service on DVD.
- *Noah Brown and His Descendants*; written by Samuel Holmes Brown 1895. Reprinted with notes on Noah Brown's ancestry by T. L. [Theodore L.] McAdam, Allen Park, MI, 1971; 8 ½ x 11; unbound; photocopy; ca 30 pp.

PHOTOS:

- Colony School c/a 1899-1900 thru 1954; students & teachers; collected by Nellie Alice (Kaufman) Washburn
 - 1952-1953; Beginners – 8th grade;
 - 1935
 - 1939
 - ca 1935
- Collection donated by Paine-Gillam Scott Museum
 - Jessie (Temple) Crawford
 - Jesse Crawford
 - Mrs. Knight VanFleet & dau Lela
 - Penix ancestors (3 pictures) incl. Wm. Henry, Ida, & Ray Sherman
 - Mrs. Clare E. Wilkinson & Jeann
 - Mary Everest 1916
 - Celia Siple, DeWitt
 - Emma Woodard, Ovid
 - Myra Sheldon. Elsie

SCHOOLS:

- (BOOK & DVD FORMAT) Rural Schools of Eaton County, MI; The Eaton County Historical Commission; Published 2015 Eaton County Historical Commission; Printed by Sunfield Sentinel / Infinity Graphics; 8 ½ x 11"; Softbound; 350 pp
- Rodney B. Wilson Middle School Yearbook; 1986-87; hardcover; 8 x 11; 80 pp.
- RBW Times Yearbook; 1987-1988; hardcover; 8 x 11; 79 pp

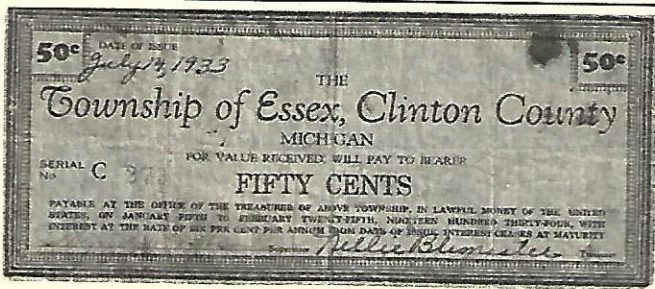
SCRAPBOOKS:

[#104] Nettie (Witt) Stiffler Collection; 12 x 14; 76pp; indexed

SURNAME RESEARCH:

Austin, Bigelow, Brown, Brya, Burnes, Burnett, Carter, Clavey, David, Farragher, Feldpausch, Fisher, Frank, Holbrook, Hopp, Kasper, Kentfield, Kirby, Lape, Martens, Oliver, Piggott, Reeves, Reynolds, Rossow, Scott, Sherman, Simon, Snow, Spears, Speer, Stone, Van Sickle, Vandevouter

Archives closed on
following dates in 2015
Nov 11 – Veterans Day
Nov 26-27 – Thanksgiving
Dec 24-31 - Christmas



Depression Scrip

The scrip [that was shown in the June newsletter and again here] was issued during the depression era when many banks were undependable and cash was scarce.

These were issued by Essex Twp. on July 14, 1933, it is signed by **Nellie Blemaster**, Treasurer, and **J. Settington**, Supervisor. **Gerald Benedict** found it among his mother's possessions in 1987 and was astute enough to preserve it until now and has donated it to the Archives.

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 _____

Do we have permission to share your information with other

E-Mail Address: _____

researchers: (please circle Yes or No on each):

Date: _____

Name & Address: Yes No

E-Mail: Yes No

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.

Wit and Wisdom Genealogy Humor and Poetry

- "Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people." John Garland Pollard
- "I trace my family history so I will know who to blame." unknown
- "A Step backwards is PROGRESS to a Genealogist." unknown
- "Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related." unknown
- "Genealogist are time unravelers." unknown
- "Whoever said "seek and ye shall find" was NOT a genealogist." unknown
- "Ever find an ancestor HANGING from the family tree?" unknown
- "Old genealogists never die, they just lose their census." unknown
- "Anybody can make history, only a great man can write it." Oscar Wilde
- "There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his." Helen Keller
- "On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: **"Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102, The Good Die YOUNG."**
- "Can a first cousin, once removed, return?" unknown