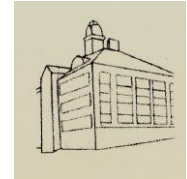




# CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS



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## Clinton County Goes to the Movies

Part III – *Elsie, Fowler, Maple Rapids, and Ovid*

By Wayne Summers

While St. Johns is believed to be the location of the first movie theaters in Clinton County, Ovid and Elsie followed close behind.

In Ovid, **Custer Waltz** opened the first theater on April 12, 1912, in the McCarty building (later the location of Farmers Elevator) on North Main Street. It had 100 folding chairs, a screen, and a moving picture projector operated by **Ray Worden**. He charged 5 cents for a two reeler and 10 cents for three reels from the Universal Film Co. Two years later he purchased a building across from **Dr. Elliott’s** office on Front Street and called the theater Pasttime. The projector was hand cranked with music by **Howard Vaughn** accompanied by **Opal Allen** on the piano.

William Montague built a Main Street theater in 1914 and sold it to **T. J. Tubbs** and **Edward Cooper** of Owosso who opened the 230 seat Princess Theater in Ovid in late 1915 or early 1916 with the silent movie *My Official Wife*. A few months later the theater was purchased by **Harold S. Beardslee**, with his wife providing the music on piano. By 1931 it was owned by **Custer Waltz** and his son **Claude**. On February 1, 1931, the building was badly damaged by fire. The building was repaired and redecorated with cushion seats, and a new sound projector was installed. At that time, it was renamed the State Theater.

The Ovid Theater, located at 106 North Main Street was open by 1945 when it was sold by **Claude E. Waltz** to **Paul Meder** who in turn operated it until 1947. **Edwin VanSickle** is also said to have operated the theater for a while. The Ovid Theater was very narrow. A ladder was used to enter and exit the projection booth. Some remember taking 50 cents to the theater for the show, popcorn and pop, and still have a nickel left over. In 1953 a group of local businessmen purchased the theater with management by **Leon Waltz** and **Harold Beardslee**. With profits disappearing in the 1950’s Ovid businessmen subsidized the theater for a time to keep it open. Upgrades occurred in 1958 with the replacement of the screen and seats. It closed about 1963 and the building was purchased by **Harold Mead** in October of 1964.

In Elsie, the first movies for which there is a record were shown in the VanDeusen Opera House in the early 1900’s.

The 160 seat Orpheum Theater (around the corner north of Main Street) owned by **Bert Mills** was showing silent movies by 1918 with **Doris**

**Cornwell** on piano. It never added sound equipment and closed around 1930. After that a make-shift outdoor theater operated during the summer in downtown for a number of years.

The Elsie Theater was built by **C. R. "Cap" Hovey** and opened on February 13, 1946. Construction on the 40x80 foot building with 320 seats began in September of 1945. It featured a steel frame, cinderblocks, a decorative façade, and a heating and cooling system. The first movies to play were *Nob Hill* followed *Tarzan and the Amazons*. After Mr. Hovey suffered a stroke in 1947, he sold it to **Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robbe** of Ashley on June 1, 1948. They moved to Elsie and went on to build the Family Drive-In in St. Johns and the Northside Drive-In in DeWitt. After **Leon Robbe's** tragic death in a car accident the theater was sold to **James Cech**. Cech closed the theater in 1959 and sold the building in 1965 to **Carl P. Easlick**.

Serving the northern part of the county was the Elmac and Maple theaters in Maple Rapids. **Horace M. Face** opened the 170 seat Elmac Theater by October of 1923. On March 1, 1924, a fire swept through Maple Rapids. Seeing the fire headed toward his theater, Face removed the projector and seats and stored them in a safe place. The following year Face hired **Joe and Percy Upton** to rebuild the theater with increased seating.

After Mr. Face died in 1945 **Erland and Caroline Gleason** bought the grocery store and closed theater next door and changed the name to the Maple Theater. The Maple with 238 seats opened on August 26, 1945. The first show was *Belle of the Yukon*. Movies were shown every day except Tuesday and Thursday. **Mr. and Mrs. Gleason** operated the theater until Erland passed away in 1964 after which **Mrs. Gleason** closed the theater. The Maple had leatherback seats, a Cinemascope screen, and had just been freshly repainted when it was closed.

On the west side of the county was the Fowler Theater. It was built by **Al Johnson and Clarence Wilson** on the west side of the block north of the railroad tracks on a site where the first wood framed Fowler House had been torn down. The Fowler Theater was in the middle of three buildings of new construction with the Fox Den dairy bar to the south. The Locker plant had been built just to the north the year before.

The theater opened on July 15, 1947, with **Glenn Somerfeldt** manager. It had Bodiform seats with side aisles instead of a middle one. The restrooms boasted germicidal ultraviolet lamps. The Fowler had an air conditioning system to improve comfort during warm summer nights. There was also a cry room so mothers with babies could enjoy the show without bothering others.

The first show was at 1:30 for children. For 14 cents each, 250 kids packed the place to watch *My Favorite Brunette* with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. As an added bonus each child also received a free comic book. That evening adults filled the 6:30 show.

The old theater closed in the 1950's killed by competition with television and is now the Fowler Village Hall.



The Fowler Village Hall, once the Fowler Theater  
Picture courtesy of <http://fowlermi.com/>

## STEPHAN CIGAR FACTORY



**Albert Conrad "Con" Stephan** manufactured cigars in St. Johns for about 20 years (1903-1943). He occupied a two-story building in the middle of the second block of Clinton Avenue on the east side. This building now is occupied by **Sirrine & Associates and Roger Beebee's State Farm Insurance** business. While Con's factory was on the second floor, he also ran a business on the first floor variously described as a smoking room, cigar sales room, billiards hall, pool room, and card room. His store carried popular brands of tobacco, pipes and "cigar clippings." (for chewing or smoking in a pipe?) In 1918 there was a candy kitchen on the first floor too.

Conrad and his brother **August**, both born in Ontario, relocated to Owosso, Michigan, in the 1890's. August ran a cigar factory there at least until 1918. Another brother, **Frederick**, is listed as a cigar maker, age 16, on the 1881 Ontario census. **August** made several brands in Owosso: *Stephan Hand Made*, *Royal Crown*, and *Stephan Broadleaf*- all 5-cent cigars. The 10-cent brands included *Stephan Regal*, *Prime Sago*, and *Ellmando*. The Owosso factory was involved in 1916 in a major labor strike by cigar workers who were seeking better working conditions, shorter hours, and equal pay for women. The strike largely occurred in Detroit factories. **August** was in Detroit by 1930 where he was employed as a sales manager of a cigar factory.

In St. Johns 'Con made cigars, by hand, of different tastes and retailed the same downstairs in the pool hall. *Con's Special* was 10 cents, 3 for 25. He made some of the finest cigars which were sold in Detroit at some of the finest hotels like the Cadillac and Statler Hotels. And by way of information, his best cigars were sold to Al Capone," according to **John Rehmann** in his manuscript, *Biography of Downtown St. Johns from the Past to the Present, 1936-1990*. During the month of July 1906, he manufactured 43,000 cigars. The Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum possesses one of Stephan's cigar boxes.

Conrad also found time to serve as sheriff (1917-1920). His family resided in the sheriff's residence and jail on McConnell St. in 1920. He was also superintendent of the County Farm for a time. He was a Mason and a member of the IOOF Lodge.

In 1929 **Con and Elizabeth [Klem]**, whom he married in 1895, lived at 502 E. State St. About 1943 Conrad moved to Cheboygan, Michigan, and started another cigar manufacturing business. He died there 21 Apr. 1944. After Elizabeth died in 1938, Conrad married a second time to **Mrs. Irene Baker**. **Conrad and Elizabeth**, their daughter, **Inez G. Stephan**; his brother, **August**; and August's wife, **Minnie**, are buried in Mt. Rest Cemetery. Their son, **Gaylord A. Stephan**, died in San Diego, California, in 1969.

The complete *Biography of Downtown St. Johns from the Past to the Present, 1936-1990* by John Rehmann is held at the Archives of the Clinton Co. Historical Society. <http://www.clas.wayne.edu/ELD/Cigar-Strikes> is an interesting 4-minute video about the cigar industry in Detroit and the 1916 cigar workers' strike. **Other Sources:** *Downtown, The History of St. Johns, Michigan*, by Dave Collins, et al. *Michigan State Gazetteers*, Polk. St. Johns & Ovid Directory, Polk, 1929. *The Clinton Republican*. *Cigar Makers Official Journal*. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1918. <familysearch.org>. <Findagrave.com>.

# BACK THROUGH THE YEARS

## Plans to Quit Business Soon

Joseph Wekenman Sells Out Cigar Store  
Here to Gaylord A. Stephan

Joseph Wekenman, proprietor of Wekenman's Cigar Store at 38 Clinton Avenue, St. Johns, has sold his business to Gaylord A. Stephan of Detroit, and will soon retire. The new owner plans to take possession Feb 6, 1941.

Mr. Wekenman has been connected with the cigar store business in St. Johns more than 30 years. During much of that time he has been employed by Conrad Stephan, the former proprietor. Some years ago Mr. Wekenman formed a partnership with John S. Barns and operated the business while Mr. Stephan served two terms as sheriff.

On Jan 1, 1936, Mr. Wekenman purchased the business and has operated the store as sole owner the past five years.

Gaylord Stephan the new proprietor-to-be, is the son of Conrad Stephan, and has leased the building in which the store is located from his father. An employee of the Chrysler Corporation at Detroit the past 3 ½ years, he has spent the greater part of his life in this city and is well known here. (CCRN 2 Jan 1941, p1, c3)

"The great family of Smiths bear a name which is not only the commonest but the oldest in the world. Prof. Mahaffy, when deciphering the Petrie papyrus, came upon one bearing the name of Smith, unmistakably written.

'We've never,' he says, 'found anything like it before, and it is surely worth telling the many distinguished bearers of the name that there was a man known as Smith in the twentieth year of the third Ptolemy, 227 years B.C., and that he was occupied in brewing and selling---beer!!'"

## RECOVERY DRIVE STARTING TODAY

FORMS AND INSTRUCTION  
BLANKS FOR EMPLOYERS  
EXPECTED HERE

PEOPLE CAN SWAY ECONOMIC FORCES, DECLARES  
ROOSEVELT IN RADIO TALK

With the national campaign to increase employment and wages scheduled to start today (Thursday) St. Johns and other Clinton county towns are awaiting from Washington their share of the forms and instructions necessary to organize their share of the drive.

"The blanks that are due to go out today to all employers, and, if signed, will bind them to maintain the minimum wage and work hours requirements under the National Industry Recovery Act, are coming from Washington in a bulk shipment," says Postmaster W. G. Wykoff.

"They will not be addressed in Washington. Local postmen will simply be given a supply contained in envelopes. As they go around their routes they will distribute the envelopes to employers. When the forms are signed they will be picked up by the postmen and we will forward them to Washington. We are expecting the St. Johns shipment on every mail. Along with the forms, or later, will come the 'service flags' which employers who are complying with the act can fly."

Millions of Americans heard President Roosevelt in his radio talk about the recovery program Monday night. He asked for cooperation from everyone and already indications are that he will get it. Concerning the matter Mr. Roosevelt says:

"I cannot guarantee the success of this nationwide plan, but the people of this country can guarantee its success. I have no faith in cure-alls but I believe we can greatly influence economic forces. I do have faith, and retain faith, in the strength of common purpose and in the strength of unified actions taken by the American people." (CCRN 27 Jul 1933, p1, c1)

# GETTING THIN

is all right, if you are too fat; and all wrong if too thin already.

Fat, enough for your habit, is healthy; a little more, or less, is no great harm. Too fat, consult a doctor; too thin, persistently thin, no matter what cause, take Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil.

There are many causes of getting too thin; they all come under these two heads; over-work and under-digestion.

Stop over-work, if you can; but, whether you can or not, take Scott's emulsion of Cod Liver Oil, to balance yourself with your work. You can't live on it—true—but, by it, you can. There's a limit, however; you'll pay for it.

Scott's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil is the readiest cure for "can't eat," unless it comes of your doing no work—you can't long be well and strong, without some sort of activity.

The genuine has this picture on it, take no other. If you have not tried it, send for free sample, its agreeable taste will surprise you.



SCOTT & BOWNE  
Chemists  
409 Pearl Street,  
New York. 50c and  
\$1.00; all druggists.  
(CR 17 Jan 1901, p2, c1)

## 3 IN RACE FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE

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ATTORNEY ROBERT L. ARNOLD OF ITHACA ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY

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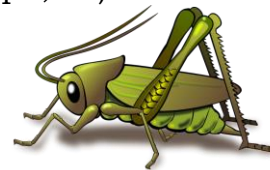
**Robert L. Arnold**, prominent Ithaca lawyer and assistant attorney-general, is a candidate for circuit court judge of Clinton and Gratiot counties. He announced this week that he had resigned his state position to make the race, and his name will be on the non-partisan ballot at the primaries in February.

Mr. Arnold has been elected three times as prosecuting attorney of Gratiot county. After his third election he resigned to accept an appointment as assistant attorney general and has served in that capacity the past two years. He is married and is the father of four children.

The Ithaca man is the first candidate from Gratiot county to enter the campaign for the judgeship. There are now three in the race, with Clinton county supplying the other two entries. They are **Judge Kelly S. Searl**, the present incumbent, and Attorney **Edward W. Fehling**, both of St. Johns. (CCRN 2 Jan 1941, p1, c5)

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**Mrs. Leo J. Grove**, formerly of Clinton county, now of Duncan, South Dakota, caught two large grasshoppers on the prairie February 24, and mailed them to **George Float**, of Essex. They came through alive. They eat cabbage, bread and potatoes. (CR 1 Mar 1900, p7, c2)



## Take from “Heritage Michigan State Grange Sesquicentennial Book 1987”

### ➤ How to Wash Clothes

A pioneer mother wrote this note to her daughter telling her how to wash clothes.

1. Build a fire in the backyard to heat a kettle of rainwater.
2. Set the tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind prevails
3. Shave whole cake of lye soap in boiling water.
4. Sort things making three piles, one of white, and one of colored and one of rags britches.
5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth for starch, and then thin down with boiling water.
6. Rub dirty spots on board, then boil. Rub colored but don't boil. Take white things out of kettle with broom handle then rinse, blue and starch.
7. Spread tea towels on grass. Hang old rags on fence.
8. Pour rinse water in flower bed.
9. Scrub privy seat and floor with soapy water.
10. Turn tubs upside down, put on clean dress, comb hair. Brew up some tea. Sit and rest a spell and count your blessings.

Nora Vocke, Menominee Grange, sent to Luanna Swainston for Lecturer's Bulletin.

### ➤ Native cures for common problems

1. A wart cure that really works: Apply the milk from the cut end of a dandelion stem two or three times a day. The wart will be gone in no time.
2. A great quick cure for sour stomach: Eat a small piece of raw Irish potato the size of your thumb—chewing well. It usually gives relief in less than a minute.
3. To relieve a bee sting, cut an onion in half and apply to the sting area.
4. Bothered by fruit flies? Set out a saucer of household bleach. Keep it out of reach of children and pets.
5. To refresh you and your skin: Mix oatmeal with water to form a thick paste—pat gently on face, let dry. Rinse with warm water.

Becky MacKay, Platte Grange No 1928

### ➤ Granny's Remedies

1. Carry an onion in your pocket to ward off fits.
2. Dirty socks tied around the neck to drive away sore throats.
3. Headache cures:
  - a. Tie a flour sack around your head.
  - b. Bind wilted beet leaves on the forehead
  - c. When you get your hair cut, gather the clippings and bury them under a rock. You'll never get headaches.
4. Trim your fingernails on Friday and you will not have a nosebleed.
5. Garlic is rubbed on bald spots to produce hair. It also cures dandruff.
6. Axle grease is good for burns.
7. A nutmeg tied around the neck will prevent neuralgia.
8. A piece of woolen yarn tied around the neck will prevent nosebleed.
9. Bread mold applied directly to wounds to prevent infection.
10. Catnip, made into tea, acts as a mild sedative.
11. To cure hiccups, take 1 teaspoon of peanut butter.
12. Freckles will go away if stump water is put on them.
13. To cure cramps in the feet, turn shoes upside down before going to bed.
14. To cure rheumatism, carry a potato in your pocket. The rheumatism is absorbed by the potato when it becomes hard later on.

Luanna Swainston.

# HELEN ANDERSON POETRY



In the **Anderson** family file at the Archives there is a little book of poems (3" x 5-1/2", about 20 pages) by **Helen Jean Anderson**, printed by **A. J. Morris**, 1935. The poems are short and mostly based on nature. Helen would have been age 11 at that time. She is the daughter of **Roy and Ella (Sessions) Anderson** and a native of Essex Township. She remained in Clinton Co. most of her life and married first, **Frederick Lewis**, and second, **Charles Huntington**.

Illustrations for Helen's poems are woodcuts done by her second cousin, **Elizabeth Ann (Bates) Schmidt** who was slightly older. Elizabeth (1915-2011) grew up in Linden, MI. She worked her way through Pratt Institute in New York and taught art at Cass Tech in Detroit. She married Eric Schmidt, a maritime lawyer and artist. They lived in California.

**Arthur J. Morris** lived in Maple Rapids and is pastor of a Methodist Church on the 1930 census. On the 1940 census he is a newspaper editor still in Maple Rapids. According to the *History of Clinton Co., Michigan*, 1980, p570, "Rev. **D. A. Rood** served for one year, followed by Rev. **A. J. Morris** who retired at the end of three years and continued to live in Maple Rapids until his death in 1942."

## Days

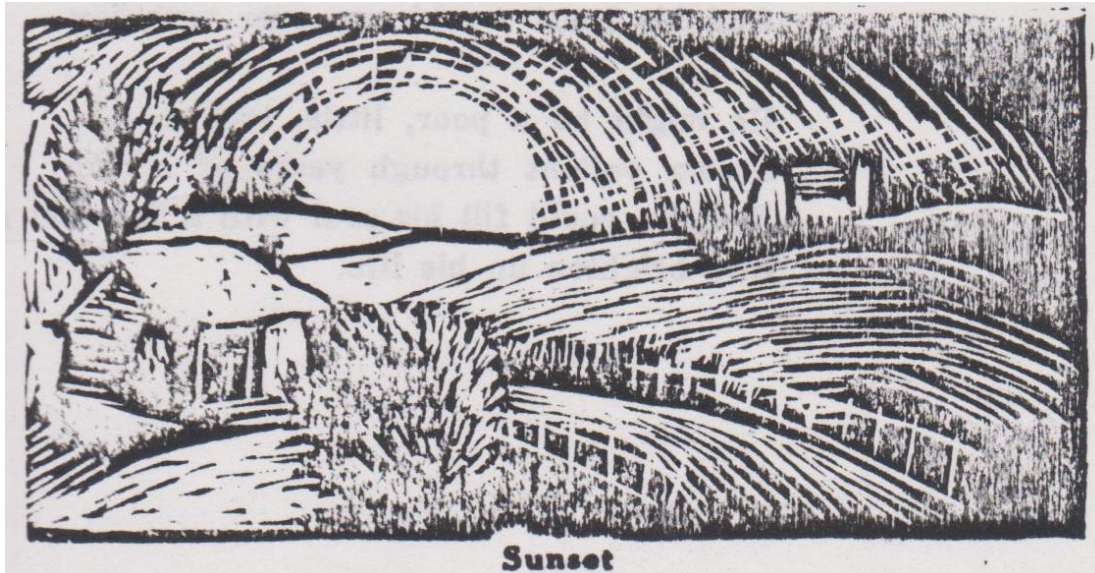
I like to go to school in the morning  
And I love to come home at night,  
When the shadows are falling around me  
In the soft twilight.

I like to gather daisies  
In the soft and sunny fall—  
But the thought of supper waiting,  
I love the best of all.

And when the day is closing  
And up in my bed I lay,  
I think of all the things  
I did at school today.

Then a little fairy  
Comes and fills my eyes with sleep  
Until the rosy morning  
Out of the east begins to peep.





## The Sunset

The western sky is lighted  
With a wonderful, beckoning glow—  
It almost seems that it were calling  
For you and me to go.

If I were a wandering gypsy,  
Carefree, happy, and bold—  
I'd go join a band of robbers  
To steal that shining gold.

But I am not a gypsy  
And I cannot roam away;  
So I'll be content each night to sit  
And watch the sun fade away.





# Recent Acquisitions

*The Archives Update...*

**2018 MARCH - MAY:**

## GENEALOGIES:

- Descendants of Col. Fletcher **Prudden**; L. Ray Lake; 8 1/2 x 11"; 6 pp.

## PHOTOS:

- Harry **Decker**, 1 1/4 x 1 5/8"; b/w
- Harry **Decker**, Navy uniform, 2 1/4 x 3 1/4"; b/w [T-12]
- Edna Irene (**Newman**) & Erie **Harton**; 4 1/2 x 6"; b/w [T-16]
- Edd **Bennett**, in uniform; 3 1/8 x 4 1/2"; b/w [T-11]
- Ed **Bennett**; Navy uniform; 3 1/2 x 5 3/8"; b/w [T-10]
- Lennard **Pierce**; 4 3/4 x 3 1/2"; color photo
- Lenna (**Pierce**) **Brabon**; 4 3/4 x 3 1/2"; color photo
- Charles **Brabon**; 3 3/8 x 5 1/2"; b/w [T-15]
- Fred & Carrie **Allen**, 9 x 7"; b/w [S-154]
- Stanley **Barnhart**; navy uniform; 3 1/2 x 5 1/2"; b/w [T-4]
- Lyle, Arnold & Dorris **Blizzard**; 4 x 6"; b/w [T-2]
- Charles **Lewis** & Lenna (**Pierce**) **Brabon**; 5 x 8 1/2"; b/w [T-3]
- Mark & Maud (**Randall**) **Cutler**; 7 3/4 x 6"; b/w [T-1]
- Bud **Decker**, in uniform; 3 1/2 x 4 3/4"; b/w [S-150]
- Donald **Decker**, navy uniform; 3 1/2 x 5"; b/w [S-149]
- Donald **Decker** & Bruce **Wilcox**; 2 3/4 x 4 1/2"; b/w [S-149]
- Dale **Wilcox**; navy uniform; 3 1/2 x 5 3/4"; b/w [S-142]
- Kenneth **Decker**; in uniform; 3 1/2 x 5"; b/w [S-151]
- Arthur & Lindford **DuBrill**; 3 1/2 x 5"; b/w [T-13]
- Charles, Art, Eloise **DuBrill**; 5 x 7"; b/w [T-14]
- Jake **Feazel**; 2 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w [T-8]
- Jacob **Feazel**; 5 1/2 x 3 3/4"; b/w [T-7]
- Rebecca **Feazel**; 3 1/2 x 5 1/4"; b/w [T-9]
- Bert & Irene (**Wight**) **Farrier**, 1912; 5 1/4 x 3 1/4"; b/w [T-15]
- Klava **Lehner**; 1953 graduation photo; 7 1/4 x 9 1/4"; b/w (T-6)
- Virgil & Stanley **Mead**; 5 1/2 x 8"; b/w (T-5)
- Glen & Eva **Miller**; 2 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w (S-148)
- Glen **Miller**; 5 x 2 3/4"; b/w (S-143)
- Floyd & Homer **Miller**; 5 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w (S-142)
- Glen **Miller** in field w/ horses; 5 1/4 x 3 1/2; b/w (S-144)
- Earl **Miller**; 5 1/2 x 7"; b/w (S-147)
- Mark **Norris**, mail carrier; 2 x 2 3/4"; b/w (S-145)
- Charity (**VanDyke**) **Pearce**; 4 1/4 x 6 1/2"; b/w (S-138)
- Varney **Pearce**; 4 1/4 x 6 1/2"; b/w (S-137)

- Pauline **Pike**; 3 x 4 1/2"; b/w (S-139)
- Joe & Hannah (**Newman**) **Stanton**; 7 x 6"; b/w (S-135)
- Nelson **Stephens**; 5 x 7"; b/w (S-140)
- Claud & Lottie **Stephens**; 9 x 7 1/2"; b/w (S-141)
- Myrtle Dean (**Bennett**) **Pierce**; 3 1/2 x 5 1/2; b/w [T-18]
- Rosevale Meat Packing Dept.-DeWitt; 3 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w [T-19]
- Allen **CRESSMAN** and Mabel (**BULLARD**) **CRESSMAN**; 4 1/4 x 6 1/4"; b/w
- Josephine **CRESSMAN**; 3 3/4 x 5"; b/w
- Kate (**GARDNER**) **GRIFFITH**; 5 1/2 x 11"; b/w
- May (**PATTERSON**) **BANCROFT**; 6 1/2 X 9"; b/w
- Glenn **PADGETT**; 5 3/4 x 8 3/4"; b/w

## SCHOOLS:

- 1928 DeWitt High School Graduation Announcement; 2 7/8 x 4 3/4"; blue cover [S 472-7]
- 1930 DeWitt High School Graduation Announcement; 3 1/4 x 5 1/4"; brown cover [S 472-8]
- 1934 DeWitt High School Graduation Announcement; 5 1/4 x 3"; brown cover [S 472-9]

## NAMES RESEARCHED

Affaulter, Bennett, Burke, Cooper, Miller, Newman, Norris, Parks, Prudden, Raby, Ross, Smith, Snow, Stephan, VanAmburg, Young. Also researched was Gunnisonville Corners, WWI



*Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of  
night stays these couriers from the swift  
completion of their appointed rounds.*



### ✓ SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL POTLUCK

The **theme for this year is Clinton County Postal Carriers and Post Offices**. We are looking for photos and/or stories of your family connections to Clinton County postal history. Please send what you have to share to our e-mail [ccgensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ccgensoc@yahoo.com) or have your local post office send it to PO Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879 by the end of May. There will be photo scanning available at the potluck. All Clinton County related photos are appreciated.

- ✓ **POTLUCK INFO: June 28, 2018**; 6 – 8:30 p.m.; AgroLiquid, 1130 S. DeWitt Rd., St. Johns. Please bring a dish to pass and place setting. Drinks will be furnished.

### PLEASE PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- ✓ **NOTE:** If you have a Clinton County ancestor who served in WW I you can help us honor his/her name by sharing photos, letters, documents or other artifacts relating to his/her service to our country. Museum staff can scan the item so you can keep the original, or they will gladly accept them as donations to the museum where they will be preserved for future generations, if that is your wish.

Contact the museum at 989-224-2894 and leave a message, or e-mail [pgsmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:pgsmuseum@hotmail.com).

## Does anyone know what ever happened to this violin?

### Violin Made from Pew Once Used In Westphalia Church

**Allie Lehman** of Portland, Is a violin maker. Until a few days ago he had in his possession three violins which he had manufactured himself in long hours of painstaking effort. One of the three instruments was made from part of a pew which served in the first church build at Westphalia, a good many years ago. A relative of Lehman's was janitor there and took the pew from which to make a tool chest when the pew church was erected. Later the chest was taken apart and Lehman used part of it in constructing his instrument.

The other day a representative from the Friedrich music house called on Lehman and during their conversation the Portland man produced his violins. Lehman put a price of \$175 on one of them and now the instrument is on sale in Friedrich's music store.

(CCRN 19 Feb 1925)

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](mailto:ccgensoc@yahoo.com) Web page: [dewittlibrary.org/CCHS](http://dewittlibrary.org/CCHS). CCHS members have free usage of the Archives, non-member cost \$5.00 donation 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 square 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](http://www.pgsmuseum.com). To join the Friends of the Museum, contact them at: [pgsmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:pgsmuseum@hotmail.com); or PGS Museum, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES 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: \_\_\_\_\_

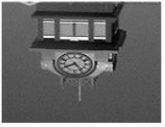
Name & Address: Yes No

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.

Happy July 4th



Clinton County  
Historical Society  
P.O. Box 174  
St. Johns, Michigan 4879