



# CLINTON COUNTY TRAILS



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## LEONE KRUSE

By Myrna VanEpps

Leone Kruse, who for a few years lived in St. Johns and went on to become a renowned opera singer, was born Dec. 25, 1898, the only child of **Grace W. (Stout)** and the **Rev. Charles John Kruse**, a Methodist minister. The Rev. Kruse served the St. Johns Methodist Church in 1914, 1915, and 1916. It was during his tenure that the church’s memorial chimes were installed. Leone sang in the church choir and was listed as a “chimer” in the 1938 church directory.

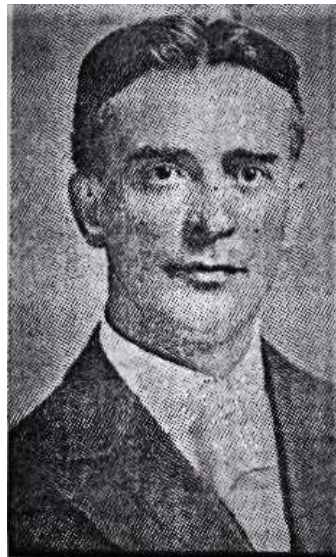
She graduated from St. Johns High School in 1917 and was the soloist during the commencement exercises on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Congregational Church. Local newspapers described her as an enthusiastic participant in school activities and popular among her fellow students.



LEONE KRUSE

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REV. C. J. KRUSE

The Kruse family moved around Michigan as the father was assigned to various other churches: Montague; Petoskey in 1930; Sturgis in 1932; Alma in 1937. Leone maintained deep affection for her friends in St. Johns though and returned twice to perform for them and renew acquaintances. On May 25, 1923, she sang at the Methodist Church. The *Clinton Co. Republican News* stated that four hundred people from St. Johns and surrounding towns attended this concert. In May 1928, she sang in the auditorium of the Rodney B. Wilson High School. Her husband, **Laurence Wolfe**, operatic tenor, performed with her for this concert and they raised \$450 to benefit the Clinton Memorial Hospital.

The CCRN published an interesting side story regarding the latter concert: “When it became known that Leone Kruse was to sing in St. Johns, **Mrs. S[chuyler] L. Marshall [Eula (Foerch) Marshall]** , who had accompanied her many times in her singing here, faced the prospect of missing the concert because of sickness. Naturally, she was disappointed. **Glen Osgood** and Mgr. **Roy Williams** of the Union Telephone Co. displayed ingenuity by bringing the concert to her in a novel manner. A loudspeaker was placed in front of the singers. This was connected to a radio outfit and carried over telephone wire to another loudspeaker in the sick room. This unusual hookup worked perfectly.”

Leone graduated from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago to which school she had received a scholarship. In 1927 she was in New York studying with William S. Brady. While there, on August 16, 1927, she married **Laurence Wolfe**, operatic tenor, in Brady’s Manhattan studio. She sang with the Munich Grand Opera Co. where she was the leading soprano for four years. She also performed for one year with the Chicago Civic Opera and was the leading soprano with the Grand Opera Co. in Prague for 3 yrs. Her voice was classified as “dramatic soprano.”

By 1948 she was on the staff of the [Cincinnati Conservatory of Music](#) where it was reported that billionaire tobacco heiress, **Doris Duke**, was her student. Leone died there June 5, 1973, age 74, and is buried next to her parents in Maple Hill Cemetery, Cadillac, MI. She died a widow but had married at least three times: on June

19, 1923, in Ionia, MI, to **Knigh Leroy Wallace**, Sales Mgr. of Durant Corporation, her father officiating; **Laurence Wolfe** of NY in 1927; and in March 1932, coming from Prague, she was visiting her parents in Sturgis with her new husband, **Jan Huk**. Sources besides the Archives of CCHS: *Record-Eagle*; Traverse City, MI; 14 Dec 1948. Clinton Co. Historical Society Museum; . <http://daytoninmanhattan.blogspot.com/2015/11/>.

## The ALLISON OPERA HOUSE

O. J. EISLER - - Leasee and Manager  
Phone 190

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**Monday, March 23**

George P. Stetson’s  
Big Double Spectacular

**UNCLE TOM’S CABIN**  
Company

A \$35,000 Production  
The Barnum of them All  
MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN  
Double Band and Orchestra  
Traveling in a Special Train  
Scenic Investiture a Positive Revelation

**SPECTACULAR AND**

**SPECIALTY SENSATIONS**

Colored People from the Cotton Belt  
**EVA’S ASCENSION**

The Grandest Street Parade Ever Given  
**TWO BANDS**

-----  
Popular Prices

**Special Matinee at 2:30 p.m.**

Prices - .10 and .25 cents

Night prices - .25, .35 and .50 cents.

See Our Grand Street Parade

(*The Clinton Republican*. 29 Mar 1903)

**BRUNETTA  
MAZZOLINI**

For the story of another opera singer, **Brunetta Mazzolini**, who is a native of St. Johns, read or listen online to an interview with her done on Apr. 8, 2019, by the Oral History Committee of the Clinton Co. Historical Society.



**Brunetta Mazzolini**

1943 St. Johns High School Yearbook  
(picture Compliments of Clinton County  
Historical Society)

<http://dewittlibrary.org/CCHS/audiofiles2.html>

# Westphalia State Bank Failure

By Wayne Summers

Westphalia has always been a town that takes great pride in its self-sufficiency, hard work, honesty, and Catholic heritage. One of its points of pride until 1950 was the Westphalia State Bank. At that time the bank served about 800 customers and was owned by co-founder **John B. Spitzley**, but was operated on a day-to-day basis by bank clerk **Robert Bohr**.

In 1950 Westphalia's pride and image took a beating with the bank's insolvency and accompanying unflattering state-wide press coverage. At the front and center of the controversy was Robert Bohr. Bohr, a timid trusting man, had been earning \$150 a month for his labors while living a modest life and driving an old 1936 vehicle to and from his home on the west side of town. Finding it hard to survive on such a meager salary he had asked and received a \$50 a month raise just prior to 1950. But, even with the additional income his pay was still well below the 1950 average annual household income of \$3,300. Hoping to supplement his wages he purchased an interest in an insurance agency in Westphalia from John B. Spitzley for \$500. However, circumstances would intervene before he was ever able to receive any commissions.

At some point during Bohr's time as clerk an unwritten policy of allowing overdrafts on accounts began. If you were a little short of money for a needed purchase Bohr allowed you to receive an overdraft with the expectation you would repay it once you were able. These were unofficial, no interest, unsecured loans given out on a verbal promise to repay. In many respects they were similar to the kind of no interest loans family members sometimes give each other.

Over time the number and amount of the overdrafts increased with many businesses in the surrounding area coming to the Westphalia State Bank to take advantage of the free loans. For example, at the time of its failure, the **Huver brothers** of Portland had received overdrafts of \$104,000 for their auto garage and dealership. **Francis and Laura Schwab**, owners of the Schwab Elevator in Eagle, had received \$130,000. Then there was **Martin J. Spitzley**, a lumber dealer and cousin of John B. Spitzley, who vanished on September 12, 1948, still owing for a \$27,000 overdraft which he probably never planned on repaying.

On March 17, 1950, bank examiners arrived in Westphalia for a routine check. They soon discovered serious discrepancies and called in additional examiners from Washington, D.C. and Chicago along with the FBI to investigate. What they found were sloppy record keeping and overdrawn accounts. Declaring the bank insolvent with over \$400,000 in unsecured overdrafts, the Westphalia State Bank was ordered to merge with the nearby Maynard Allen State Bank of Portland effective April 3, 1950.

As the bank deposits were insured by the FDIC, no one lost any money. However, the cost to those who had been given overdrafts took a toll. The grand jury indicted a total of 31 people. Of those, only 12 were from Westphalia and generally were for small amounts.

Bohr was put on trial for a total of 113 counts of misappropriation of funds for approving overdrafts including \$2,659 on his own account. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of trial on March 25, 1952, in Detroit federal court, Bohr took a plea and pled guilty to 29 counts after the FBI presented a statement he had made early in their investigation which they termed a confession. Judge **Frank A. Picard** sentenced him to 4 months in jail stating it was "a pitifully small sentence, but it is warranted because of the hell Bohr has gone through." [Detroit Free Press 4Mar1953]

His wife **Beatrice** explained it this way. "Robbie is just too generous and he trusted people too much." [LSJ 28Mar1950 p1]

After serving his sentence Bohr took up farming and his wife a factory job in Flint to pay back the money they had overdrawn.

Bank president John B. Spitzley was acquitted as the jury found him unaware of the policy.

Coming to the defense of the townspeople was former governor **Kim Sigler** who said, "I know those people up there. It's like a community of brothers. They are fine, honest, hardworking people, but they don't keep records much. They know and trust everybody." [*Battle Creek Enquirer and News* 7Aug1951 p1]

While, with the assistance of the former governor, most were able to escape jail time by agreeing to pay back what they had overdrawn, some weren't so lucky. For example, Mrs. **Dorothea Pohl**, a Westphalia shop owner, was given a 3-month sentence for a \$639 overdraft for being less than truthful at the trial. As far as John B. Spitzley's wayward cousin Martin J. Spitzley, he was found, arrested, and given a 3-year jail sentence. At the end of his trial the judge commented Martin had "lied like a trooper" in his court. [*LSJ* 26May1954 p 1]

Rumors began to circulate throughout the state that Westphalia residents were all getting rich by taking bank funds. This caused local residents to be irritated and distrustful of the press. One reporter was greeted with, "You guys had better watch out about prying into our affairs here. You might get into trouble. There's nothing wrong here." [*LSJ* 28 March 1950 p 1] While upset with the rumors, most residents, however, saw the bank failure simply as one more example of government overreach.

It's important to understand that just prior to the time of the bank investigation and trials were taking place the town had battled the state over its school system. For some time, the local high school had been officially a public school, however, all of the teachers were nuns with a priest in charge. The state had stepped in and told them they could no longer receive public funding for what was in reality a Catholic school system. So in 1949 the "public" school had been sold to the church for a token amount and the high school renamed St. Mary's High School.

The banking insolvency further fueled a distrust of outsiders who residents felt were trying to tell them how to run their business. Many believed they should have had an opportunity to solve the banking issues without state and federal interference.

Throughout the ordeal the town's sympathies were with Robert Bohr. They would admit he was someone who found it hard to say no to neighbors and life-long friends. They'd say while perhaps too soft-hearted to be a banker, he had had no intent to commit fraud or embezzle. Overall, they saw Robert Bohr as someone who was punished for trying to help people.

## Westphalia

---Photo credit: Westphalia Historical Society



Taken from the publications: *Internet Genealogy & Your Genealogy Today*  
*Research Tips & More*

Submitted by Lynne Gregory

Ancestral Towns:

"Identifying ancestral towns is a critical task but it can be frustrating. Gazetteer are an extremely important resource. For European place names, especially in Eastern Europe, there are two on-line databases that are fabulous. They give every known variant of the names in a wide variety of languages. Both can be found on the **JewishGen website—www.JewishGen.org**. Pull down the Databases tab and then click on Town Finder." By John Hoenig, contributor to *Your Genealogy Today*; vol. 6, #23

Photo Dating:

"Studio portraits are often undated, but they usually include the name of the photographer and the name of the city where located. By googling the photographer's name and studio location, you can often determine the years during which photographer worked there. This is a good way to help you establish the date range during which a portrait could have been taken. Two additional sources that can help are a local newspaper or a city directory." Author Sue Lisk, *Your Genealogy Today & Internet Genealogy* author; vol. 6, #23.

Tombstone Photos:

"If you cannot find a tombstone photo on FindaGrave and other websites----try <http://usgw-tombstones.org> an online cemetery transcription project searchable by state (USGenWeb)" Author: Gena Philibert-Ortega, *Internet Genealogy & Your Genealogy Today*; vol. 6, #23.

City directories are a wonderful source for those in between census years. And like the census, they place our ancestor in a specific time and place, often giving an occupation. Besides the large collection on Ancestry.com, make sure to check the digital book websites like Google Books (<https://books.google.com>). Internet Archives (<https://archive.org>) and Hathi Trust (<https://hathitrust.org>) Internet Archive has a Genealogy collection that include books from Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center (<https://archive.org/details/genealogy>)." Author: Gena Philibert-Ortega, *Internet Genealogy & Your Genealogy Today*; vol. 6, #22

## NEWS FROM MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

8/13/2019 to Lynne Gregory

- The Michigan Naturalizations Indexing Project is back online at Family Search. Transcribers are needed. This is a huge project and the more people who transcribe the sooner the records will be available.
- On September 1, 2019 digital collections currently available on [SeekingMichigan.org](http://SeekingMichigan.org) will move to Michiganology.org. Please read the information provided by the Archives staff about this move at <https://seekingmichigan.org/look/2019/07/29seekingmichigan-org-is-moving>. Please let your members know because URL's for saved *Seeking Michigan* information will no longer access those records.

## CCHS Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Clinton County Historical Society will be held on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 1 pm at Redeemer Church – St. Johns Campus, 200 E. State Street, St. Johns. This is only a business meeting. There will be no program presented. All members present may vote on the following slate of board members and officers. Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the vote.

Board of Trustees:

For terms ending December of 2021: Lynne Gregory and Judy Williams

For terms ending December of 2022: Gayla Phillips and Myrna VanEpps

Officers for 2020:

President: Lynne Gregory

Vice President: Gayla Phillips

Secretary: Wayne Summers

Treasurer: Rowlan Smith

### Back through the Years

#### GOOD SITE SELECTED

Elgin Butter Factory to Be  
Located on Steel Street.

#### WORK ALREADY BEGUN

Building Being Erected on Land  
Directly North of Old Spring  
Works Plant

About twenty-five subscribers to the new Elgin butter factory met at the Steel last Friday forenoon and appointed a committee to select a site for the plant. D. S. French was named as chairman of the meeting and Jay B. Davis was made secretary. Mr. French was placed at the head of the committee with F. M. Spaulding and George Lapham as the remaining members. Saturday the committee got together and in company with M. F. Cunnien, of Chicago, who is here to superintend the construction of the factory, looked over several sites with a view of securing the

most desirable. It was finally decided to purchase the land directly north of the old spring works. The barn belonging to the Table Company will probably be moved to one side so as to improve the conditions. The purchase was made from the Land Company and consists of the west ½ of lots, 7, 8 and 9, block 111. The price paid was \$300.00.

Mr. Cunnien is well pleased at the site selected and says it could not be much improved upon. It is of central location, has good drainage and fine water privileges. Shipping, facilities are good, also.

At the meeting last Friday, Mr. Everts was present and gave some valuable information in regard to the capacity and workings of the new factory. At the beginning only one separator will be installed, but if the future success of the factory warrants it two more machines can be placed as the foundations will be so constructed as to make it possible to have that many. The machines are called the Alpha-turbine and each has a capacity of between 2500 and

3000 pounds of cream per hour. The milk from 500 cows can be taken care of by one of these machines.

Jay B. Davis remarked upon the good effect a dairying section has upon the value of farm property. He quoted his brother, Porter H. Davis, who has spent sometime in the dairying country of Wisconsin and whose opinion is entitled to weight. Out there it is said, the dairying business has brought the land values up to \$75.00 or \$100.00 per acre. Mr. Everts said the same conditions exists in Iowa. He was no reason, he said, why Clinton county could not become a fine dairying section, as in his opinion he had been in few places where the prospects for success seemed better.

D. S. Fresch asked for information of Mr. Everts to the price the product of the local factory would bring. In reply Mr. Everts stated that the price of Elgin butter was fixed

# Cemetery Research

By Lynne Gregory

In spite of the movies making cemeteries spooky horror filled places, in reality, the family historian often finds them a gold mine of information and a peaceful final resting place to visit their ancestors. If you are lucky enough to find tombstones for several generations you can sometimes find information that helps you to connect all your family members. These can be a guide to checking strange names to other records that tie all the people together as a family. If there are odd empty spaces in the middle of a family plot, perhaps other records should be consulted to find the missing identity. (Also, why was there no stone there? Family could not afford a stone, was it destroyed somehow, the person that it was saved for, was buried elsewhere, or is it a mystery to be solved?) Old cemeteries, especially farm cemeteries, often had just a special rock brought from a field or a wooden cross or marker, which may have disappeared long ago.

It is also interesting to sometimes find that the information on the tombstone does not agree with official records.... another mystery. Some are accidental mistakes on part of the gravestone maker or family member, some deliberate attempts to change facts. Thus, stones are considered secondary evidence and information must be checked against official records. (Which also can be wrong!)

The condition of the stone can be of interest....clues as to whether the family has moved away, died out, kept cleaned of lichens and dirt, flowers or other memorials are current, fallen or broken, replaced stones, all are clues. Sometimes stones are neglected simply by disinterested younger descendants. These latter people may be a source of information if contacted.

The material of the tombstone and the designs of and on the stones can often give valuable clues if the lettering cannot be read. A small mausoleum, an obelisk, ornate statuary or ornate décor on the stone usually indicates the wealth of a family though a larger mausoleum is usually built by the cemetery builders and individual slots can be purchased.

The designs on the stones can be clues to dating stones as fads go in and out. Some are “secret codes”, a daisy or lamb often symbolized the grave of a child, a sheaf of wheat often symbolized, not a farmer, but that a person who lived a long fruitful life. Symbols can provide information sometimes as to the hobbies and the interests of the individual.

In older cemeteries, if stones have been broken or have fallen over, or are too close to the road for modern vehicles, they are sometimes moved to behind buildings or along fence lines. If a stone is not where it should be, look in these outlying places. (In researching in New York state, I found that a house had been built long ago using discarded tombstones as a foundation for the house. Luckily the printing was left visible in the cellar. In Baltimore, an older city cemetery had been cleared for a golf course, tombstones were used to line a fence around the property and the others simply piled up in a huge pile in one corner of the property.

Location in the cemetery can be informative.... the original part of an old cemetery usually contains the stones of early settlers and each additional section is often more or less chronological for burials. **In church cemeteries you may notice that burials are usually on the west, south and east sides of the church. Historically the north side was reserved for the unbaptized, the excommunicated, the insane, criminals and suicides.** Nearly all of the time no records were kept of these burials and no tombstones were allowed to be erected. In cemeteries distant from the church you may find stillborn infants, unbaptized persons, suicides, unrepentant criminals, excommunicates and nonconformists in unconsecrated ground beyond cemetery borders with no stones. Now if a cemetery borders have expanded, there may be areas with no stones that are actually former burial areas. (The only source of information on a few of these unconsecrated burials I have found was

through funeral home burial records.) These unconsecrated and special burial areas are often referred to as “Potter’s Field”.

For cemetery information, there are several different types of resources, the most common ones are: the cemetery office, sexton, caretaker; the church officer; the city/town/township officials for plat, plot or cemetery maps; death certificates, funeral home records, obituaries or death notices; funeral cards; family Bibles and family records; family members, neighbors, friends; county and city histories; county archive holdings; internet sites, like FindAGrave and individual cemetery sites by name, etc.

In Christian cemeteries, interments are usually made with the deceased head west facing east in the belief that on the Day of Resurrection the body would face the rising sun. Other religions have their own beliefs and are buried according to that, i.e. location, clothing, time between death and burial, whether burial is in the ground or above, and method of preparation for burial.

Traditionally the husband was buried on the left of the plot with his wife buried on the right and if she died in childbirth, the infant was then buried in her arms. Other children were buried in order of their death. If a man had more than one wife, he might be buried between them or they might be buried in order of their marriage. Times have changed and sometimes there will be a stone in a cemetery but the remains are elsewhere, depending upon state and local regulations and family choice.

If you discover there was an old cemetery on your ancestor’s farm property, always ask the owner for permission to visit the cemetery and be respectful if they say no. Sometimes they can be convinced to take a photo and send it to you. (If they say all the stones were plowed up and are in a pile along the fence rose, under many weeds and there are snakes around, you can decide if you really want to see if you can find the right stones!)

Sometimes taking along a soft old toothbrush will help you to clean the lettering on the stone so you can get a good photo and clippers to cut back the grass growing around the tombstone, is also a good idea to take.





# Recent Acquisitions

JUNE - AUGUST 2019

## CHURCH DIRECTORIES:

- 📖 1955 Centennial of the First Methodist Church, St. Johns; 6x9"; stapled; 33 pp
- 📖 1978 First United Methodist Church Directory; 6x9"; spiral bound; 30 pp
- 📖 1982 First United Methodist Church Directory; 8 1/2 x 11"; stapled; 28 pp
- 📖 1996 First United Methodist Church Directory; 8 1/2 x 11"; glued; 40 pp
- 📖 2000 United Methodist Church Celebrates the Millennium; 8 x 10"; glued; 36 pp
- 📖 2003 First United Methodist Church Directory; 7 1/2 x 9 1/2"; spiral bound; 17 pp
- 📖 2004 First United Methodist Church Directory; 8 1/2 x 11"; stapled; 18 pp
- 📖 2007 First United Methodist Church Directory; 8 x 10"; spiral bound; 24 pp
- 📖 2015 First United Methodist Church Directory; 8 1/2 x 11" spiral bound; 15 pp

## CITY DIRECTORY:

- 📖 R. L. Polk St. Johns and Ovid Directory, 1929; Detroit, MI; White 3 ring binder w/ photocopies; 207 pp

## GENEALOGIES:

- 📖 100th **Kebler** Family Reunion 1919-2019; Geneva Kebler Wiskemann; staple bound; 20pp
- 📖 The History of THE FAXON FAMILY; by George L. Faxon; spiral bound; 377 pp

## GOVERNMENT RECORDS:

- 📖 Olive Twp Annual Statement; 1959-60; 8 1/2 x 10 3/4"; stapled booklet; 18 pp
- 📖 Olive Twp Annual Statement; 1962-63; 8 1/2 x 10 3/4"; stapled booklet; 8 pp
- 📖 Olive Twp Annual Statement; 1966-67; 9 x 11 1/2"; 2 prong binder; 10 pp

- 📖 1862-1885 DeWitt Treasurer's Report; 7 1/2 x 12"; hard cover (no front cover); approx 85 pp
- 📖 1900-1907 DeWitt Treasurer's Report; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp
- 📖 1905-1911 DeWitt Treasurer's Report; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp
- 📖 1898-1900 DeWitt Twp Clerk's Records; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp
- 📖 1900-1905 DeWitt Twp Clerk's Records; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp
- 📖 1907-1915 DeWitt Twp Clerk's Records; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp
- 📖 1917-1925 DeWitt Twp Clerk's Records; 9 1/2 x 14"; hard cover; 400 pp

## GRANGE RECORDS:

- 📖 Manual of Subordinate Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry, J. A. Wagenseller, Printer, Philadelphia; 1874; hardcover; 4 x 5 1/2"; 72 pp

## HISTORIES:

- 📖 *History of Gunnisonville*; Alta Gunnison Pierce; 2018; Gunnisonville Historical Community Preservation; 8 1/2 x 11"; stapled; 29 pp

## NEWSLETTERS:

- 📖 Relief After Violent Encounter (RAVE) newsletters; Jan 1990 - Winter 2002; black 3 ring binder










## PLAT BOOKS:

- 📖 Indexed List of Land Owners of Ingham Co, MI 1833- ; Publication No. 3 1982; MI Gen. Council; 8 1/2 x 11"; Stapled; 125 pp

## VERTICAL FILE:

- 📖 Gunnisonville Restoration Cookbook; 1972; 5 1/2 x 8 1/2"; stapled booklet; 70 pp [VF]

## SCHOOLS:

-  Class of 1903 Commencement book; St. Johns Eighth Grade; 4 1/4 x 5 1/2; green cover; 4 pp
-  1908 Best Wishes Card from the Teacher, Edith G. **Costigan**; Bath School, Dist. No. 1
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 2/1986 –12/1988; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 1/1989–11/1992; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 1/1993-1/1997; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 3/1997–6/2002; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 8/2002 -12/ 2007; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 1/200 – 12/2010; 3 ring binder
-  Fowler Eagle Flyer Newsletters; 1/2011 – 7/ 2018; 3 ring binder

## PHOTOS:

-  Marilyn Helen & David Lee **NUFFER**, ca late 1940's; 5 x 7"; b/w [T-87]
-  Marilyn Helen **NUFFER**, ca 1944; 5 x 7"; b/w [T-88]
-  Edward & Elma Mae (**MOORE**) **LOCHER**; 5 x 3 1/2"; b/w [T-62]
-  Melissa, Joann, Paul, Paulette, David & Christine **MARTIS**; 3 1/2 x 5"; b/w [T-61]
-  1920 Tornado destruction of **Fowler & Ball Store**, St. Johns; 5 x 3 1/4"; b/w [T-63]
-  Alden, Doris, E.A., & Bertha **Livingston** w/ Farm Photo; 9 1/4 x 7 1/2"; b/w [T-97]
-  Back row: Lorraine **Wright**, Maple **Upton**, Leda **Husted**, Theda **Hull**, Reba **Craig**, and Edit **Underwood**, Front Row: Robert, Oak, and Acil **Underwood**; 5 x 3"; b/w [T-89]
-  Clinton Memorial Hospital 25th Anniversary (1952) Left to right, seated: Robert A. **Conn**, Rev. Emeral E. **Price**, Conrad **Seim, Jr.** (standing in back), Chester E. **Teske**, Joseph G. **Matthews**, Lewis W. **Wolf**, Dr. Charles T. **Foo** (at microphone), Dart H. **Parr** and Ink **White**; 5 x 4"; b/w [T-90]
-  Rodney B. Wilson High School; ca 1930's; 10 x 8"; b/w [T-64]
-  Grand Trunk Train Wreck, June 7, 1923; 3 1/2 x 2 3/4"; b/w [T-106]
-  Ernest **GRULER**; 1 1/2 x 2 1/2"; b/w [T-107]
-  Calvin & Emma **MUNDELL**; 3 1/4 x 4 1/2"; b/w [T-91]
-  DeWitt Trestle w/ rail car; ca 1917; 5 x 3 1/4"; b/w [T-92]
-  Ruth **Sirrine**, Rex **Sirrine**, Grandma **Sirrine**, Aunt B, Al, Alberta & Norman **Simpson**, Charles **Sirrine**; 4 1/4 x 2 1/2" at the beach; b/w [T-95]
-  Bob and Dorothy Jean **Sirrine**; 3 x 4"; mid 1940's; b/w [T-94]
-  Dr. **Squires**, Dorothy Jean & Bob **Sirrine**; 2 3/4 x 3 3/4"; b/w [T-93]
-  Mrs. William **DeWitt**; 4 1/4 x 6 1/2" b/w [T-108]
-  RBW Class of 1929 Reunion in 1979; 8 x 10"; b/w [T-98]
-  Albert **Edwards** & Harvey **Leonard**; 5 x 3 1/2"; at Rivard's Nursing Home; b/w [T-96]
-  Zane **Benedict** & Ruth **Pontius** (Meals on Wheels); Dec 1991; 4 x 6"; color [T-99]
-  Donna **Carter** & Rep. Bill **Schuette** (MOW); 3 1/4 x 5"; color [T-100]
-  Diane **Hart** & Rep. Bill **Schuette** (MOW); 5 x 3 1/4"; color [T-101]
-  Bill **Brook** (MOW), Berrard & Laura **Gauger**; June 1991; 5 x 3 1/4"; color [T-102]
-  Rita **Wieber**, Sue **Briggs**, Leona **Thayer**; 5 x 3 1/2"; color [T-103]
-  Charles **Coletta**, Sue **Cerny**, Sue **White**, Pat **Benedict**; Clinton Memorial Hosp. Volunteer Dinner; 6 x 4"; color [T-104]
-  Paul **McNamara**, Sue **White**, Pat **Benedict**, Charles **Coletta**; MOW dinner; 6 x 4"; color [T-105]
-  Elston **Hicks**, 10 mo old Feb. 1911; 3 1/2 x 5 1/2"; b/w
-  1952-53 Jr. High Band, St. Johns; taken in front of RBW; 8 x 10"; b/w
-  Addie & George F. **Dimond**; wedding photo; 2 1/4 x 3 1/2" Tintype
-  Addie & George F. **Dimond**; wedding photo; 2 1/4 x 3 1/2"; Tintype
-  Addie (Beals) **Dimond**; 2 1/4 x 4"; Tintype
-  Addie (Beals) **Dimond**; 2 1/4 x 3 1/4" Tintype
-  Edythe **Dimond** (daughter of Geo & Addie); 2 1/2 x 4"; Tintype
-  Frank A. **Dimond**; 2 1/2 x 3 1/4"; Toddler; Tintype
-  Frank A. **Dimond**; 1 1/2 x 2 1/4"; Boy; b/w photo
-  Frank A. **Dimond**; 3 x 4"; Teenage?; b/w photo
-  George F. **Dimond**; 2 1/4 x 3 1/4"; Tintype
-  Jean **Dimond**; 2 1/2 x 3 1/2"; b/w photo



We are now on Facebook. Follow us at CCHSMichigan to keep up to date on all of the latest happenings. It's also a great place to share your photos and memories!

## ?? DID YOU KNOW??

The old bricks used in the construction of the pavilion at the St. Johns City Park were once part of the Table Factory and the Portable Building Factory. When these building were torn down the W. P.A. used the bricks for the pavilion.



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 Redeemer Church – St. Johns Campus 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 **Clinton County Historical Museum** complex is located on the west side of the courthouse square in St. Johns. [pgsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:pgsmuseum@gmail.com). To join the Friends of the Museum and make a donation of \$25, contact them at: [www.pgsmuseum.com](http://www.pgsmuseum.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.

(Elgin Butter Factory continued from page 30 )

.... every Monday morning and that butter of the Elgin variety will bring that price. Last year the average price per pound was twenty-one and eight-tenths cents. In a few cases some factories get a better average by reason of superior feeding for the cattle, but the price is generally uniform. "If one man does not want your butter at your figure, another one does," said Mr. Everts, "and a train load could be taken out of St. Johns every day if that much could be made. A factory has just been installed at Fowler and there are also factories in Henderson, Mulliken, Middleville, Vermontville, Charlotte, and in many other towns in the state. Michigan has about 120 factories on the Elgin system while Wisconsin has 1200 or over.

A professional butter maker will probably be placed in charge of the factory here for some time. The Fowler plant employs one at a salary of \$60 per month.

The factory here will be built on a stone foundation instead of brick or stone piers as specified in the contract. The extra expense of this will be borne by the company and not by the stockholders. St. Johns labor is being employed and the material will be purchased here. (Clinton Republican 9 May 1901)

The Creamery was located on the Northeast Corner of Oakland and Steel. In 1908 It was called the Clinton Butter Company and in 1918 it was the Detroit Creamery Company.



Steel St. (Block 111, Lots 7,8 9)

CLINTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 174  
ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN 48879

