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Clinton County Trails

Co-Editors
Myrna VanEpps
Arlene Smith



WILMA SOWLE

WILMA SOWLE HELPS SENIORS WITH GENEALOGY

The Senior Drop-In Center sponsored a beginning class in Genealogy, with Wilma Sowle's expertise. Wilma regularly attends activities at the Senior Center and was the perfect person to
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(con't, from front page)
introduce other Seniors to a new and interesting hobby.

Wilma has been researching for many years and very active with the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society. Always interested in genealogy, Wilma helped with the creation of a genealogical archives in Clinton County, where she provided many records from her personal files.

As the records increased, the Archives outgrew one home after another until the DeWitt Township Offices offered free housing for the records and the Archives moved from St. Johns to DeWitt. There, Wilma served as a green thumb worker where she was able to help many with their research besides the many duties of maintaining records.

Wilma is a life-long resident of Clinton County. She is the youngest child from a family of ten children, born to George and Malinda (Wilcox) Cowles. Wilma & James J. Sowle were married in 1920. James died in 1976. Wilma has two children, Mrs. Frances Hiner Homer of DeWitt, and James J. Sowle of Cinnaminson, New Jersey, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Besides genealogy, Wilma has many talents to keep her from growing bored. Music and crafts keep her busy, as well as keeping up a good game of a cribbage. She has the energy of ten people, young or old, and she has a wonderful sense of humor.

LAND RECORDS FEATURED IN OCTOBER MEETING

Genealogists of Clinton County met on Monday, September 9, 1991 at the Capital Federal Savings & Loan Community Room for the September meeting. Those attending were, Bill Service, Pres.; Marilyse Brooks, Sec.; Janet Tiedt, Tres.; Janet Snyder, corresponding sec. Members present included Dorr & Jean Hudson, Wilma Sowle, Alberta Huhn, Myrna VanEpps, Jean Service & Arlene Smith.

Church presented an interesting program on land records. With humor and expertise, he included the history of land surveying and how explained how our founders, using the meridian & base lines to improve the ancient system of measuring land by meets & bounds. He explained how the land descriptions changed as the country grew and the system improved. He touched on the different land grants and how they were awarded, and the land developers and how they operated on the frontiers. Also, how the territories and states land boundaries were awarded and the conflicts settled over those boundaries, and how the separate controls of Federal, State and local, which includes City, Village, County & Township prevail.

He advised us to check the property descriptions on our tax form against the property description on our deed every time we receive our tax notice, and if any discrepancies appear, get the tax description corrected.

CUSHMAN FAMILY

The Cushmans were the first family in Gunnisonville Community and the first settlers in Bath Township.

The Cushman family history starts in Kent, England, when Robert Cushman was born 9 Feb. 1577. He was principal agent for the Pilgrims, and his son Thomas married Ruth Howland whose parents came on Mayflower to America in 1620. Fordney Cushman and his daughter are both members of the Mayflower Society.

Gilbert and Nancy Russell Cushman and most of their family left Kent township, Putman County, New York, in 1836 and came to Michigan. He recieved a land patent in 1839. Later Gilbert's sons, Morris, Russell and Ira took land adjoining the original farm. Ira and his family were the first settlers in Bath Township. Cushman's uncle Ira died soon after settling, and his wife,

Belinda, had to go to the County Court House in DeWitt to get guardianship of her two children. The law at that time considered them her dead husband's brother's children. Cushman verified this from probate records dated 1840.

The Cushman school was located on the north-east corner of Clark and Chandler roads. The Cushman Cemetery was near the south-east corner of Clark and Chandler roads. Gilbert Cushman is buried there, and his wife Nancy is buried in Gunnisonville Cemetery.

Fordney Cushman and his wife Wilma are the fourth generation living on the Cushman farm. Their daughter, Johanna Balzer, has a home on the farm, and her daughters, Kathryn and Shannon Balzer, are the sixth generation to live on the Cushman farm.



FORDNEY CUSHMAN

**DEATHS IN AND NEAR MAPLE RAPIDS
1906-1921**

Recorded by Carrie May (Knowles) Bullis (1863 - 1921)
(wife of Maple Rapids Druggist, Otto Bullis)

Adams, Jason R. (Uncle Jase)	10 Jan 1919	Bugher, Leroy	8 Nov 1914
Adams, Mary Brown (Aunt May)	5 Jan 1920	Butler, Bernard	1 Nov 1909
Aldrich, Dorothy	9 Feb 1919	Casterline, A.	27 Dec 1916
Aldrich, L. S.	21 Mar 1915	Casterline, Orrin	13 Aug 1917
Allen, "Kip"	15 Jan 1915	Chapman, Mrs.	6 Sep 1920
Allen, Myron	26 Feb 1919	Chase, Mrs.	9 Oct 1916
Allor, Charlie	23 May 1906	Chick, H. Peggy	2 Jun 1920
Altvator (Mrs.' father)	31 Aug 1918	Clark, John O.	20 Mar 1916
Anderson, Gabriel	13 Oct 1912	Conklin, Mr.	4 May 1907
Anderson, Mrs. John	7 Mar 1918	Conklin, Mrs.	14 Feb 1908
Anderson, Libbie	24 Jul 1907	Cook, Harriet	20 Jun 1913
Anderson, Thomas	4 Jul 1919	Crook, (Lloyd's baby)	2 Jun 1920
Antes, Mrs. Newt	8 Feb 1920	Cook, Stanley D. (b Nov 12)	9 Dec 1915
Archer, Mr.	17 Jan 1908	Cooper, Fay	23 May 1912
Archer, Mrs.	16 Apr 1913	Cowles, Linda	7 Jan 1917
Bamber, Mrs.	7 Nov 1906	Cowles, Norman	27 Feb 1918
Barns, Mr.	17 Jun 1919	Cowles, Robert	9 Feb 1920
Barstow, Mrs.	29 Apr 1909	Creaser, Mr.	5 May 1918
Beals, Daniel	13 Apr 1909	Creaser, Olivia	19 May 1918
Belcher, Frossie Sanford	24 Jan 1914	Cunningham, Oliv.	24 Oct 1915
Bell, Billy	19 Nov 1907	Davidson, Katie	21 Nov 1919
Bell, Libby	19 Oct 1916	Donaldson, Isaac	9 May 1920
Bell, Roy	28 Nov 1911	Douglas, (baby)	19 Sep 1916
Bell, Mrs.	25 Dec 1918	Douglas, (baby)	27 Dec 1917
Benjamin, Levi	9 Nov 1911	Downs, Mr.	6 May 1906
Bennett, John	16 Jun 1918	Draker, J.	3 Dec 1918
Bently, Mr.	26 Dec 1907	Dunstal, Agatha	21 Dec 1906
Bird, Mrs. J.	27 Mar 1917	Durbin, Rufus	28 Nov 1918
Blank, Chester	17 Oct 1912	Fess, (baby)	22 Feb 1916
Bliss, Dr.	24 Jul 1917	Findley, Kate	20 Jan 1917
Boyce, Mrs.	9 Nov 1917	Fitzpatrick, Ellen (Miss)	25 Mar 1916
Boyle, S. M.	18 May 1912	Fleshman, Daniel	25 Jan 1910
Brewer, Phoebe	4 Jan 1916	Fleshman, Mrs. D.	8 May 1914
Britten, Beth (baby)	15 Apr 1915	Fleshman, Ed	30 May 1916
Britten, Had	-- Oct 1918	Fleshman, Elijah	11 Oct 1916
Britten, John	15 Jan 1906	Fleshman, Mrs. E.	20 Jul 1913
Britton, Mrs. John	23 Oct 1915	Freer, Mrs.	29 Mar 1919
Brown, Amy	20 Jan 1914	Fuller, Mrs.	16 Oct 1917
Brown, Hiram	27 May 1920	Fulton, Abby	9 Dec 1908
Brown, Sybil	7 Nov 1918	Gillson, Ida	4 Mar 1919
		Gladstone, Geo.	17 Jul 1915
		Gladstone, Mrs.	1 Jun 1919
		Glover, Frank	24 Apr 1918
		Gordanier, Mr.	2 Jun 1916

Deaths-Maple Rapids (Cont.)

Goss, Eliza 28 Jul 1906
 Green, Naomi 27 May 1919
 Greenslade, Lola 3 May 1919
 Greenswike, Anna 14 Mar 1915
 Groom Genialia 22 Nov 1914
 Groom, Mrs. G. 23 Feb 1912
 Halsted, John 27 Dec 1910
 Halsted, Lewis -- Jun 1910
 Hammond, Mrs. 30 Dec 1912
 Hane, William 23 May 1913
 Harrington, Wm. 7 Dec 1908
 Herman, William 10 Dec 1915
 Herman, Mrs. Wm. 17 Feb 1916
 Hastings, Mrs. 18 Feb 1918
 Hewitt, Beth 13 Jan 1911
 Hewitt, Helen 15 Apr 1920
 Hewitt, Henry 21 Oct 1912
 Hewitt, Jennie 14 Jul 1909
 Hewitt, Mae 16 Feb 1908
 Hewitt, Mrs. S. 22 Feb 1917
 Hodges (boy) 7 Jul 1910
 Hooker, George 14 Feb 1911
 Hoover, Eliza 24 Mar 1911
 Howarth, John 28 Oct 1920
 Howarth, Mrs. 15 May 1920
 Howe, Mary A. 6 Aug 1906
 Hubbard, F. G. 25 Sep 1918
 Hubble, Martin 7 Mar 1907
 Hubble, Mrs. 18 May 1916
 Ingrham, S. 23 Oct 1918
 Irwin, Finlay 9 Feb 1911
 Jaquish, Mrs. 20 Mar 1916
 Jewett, James 11 Dec 1907
 Jolls, Orrin (90) 7 Jan 1921
 Jones, Mrs. J. 19 Feb 1916
 Jones, Mrs. J.E. 10?Mar 1918
 Jones, James 3 Jan 1908
 Jones, Rod 31 May 1913
 Kentfield, Dell 19 Aug 1918
 Ketchum, John 24 Oct 1907
 Knowles, Caroline 30 Dec 1909
 Lake, Mrs. Arnold 24 Nov 1910
 Lake, Arnold 8 Dec 1910
 Lambie, Claud 23 Apr 1918
 Lambie, Mrs. James 25 Mar 1916
 Lamphere,
 Mrs. Skinner 27 Apr 1918
 Lansing, Mrs. Pete 5 Jul 1913
 LaSalle, Mrs. E. 24 Mar 1916
 LeBarr, Joseph 30 Aug 1915
 LeRoy, Mrs. 29 Jul 1917

Marsh, John 15 Jun 1906
 Marsh, Mrs. 15 Dec 1911
 McDonald, Mrs. 26 May 1918
 McFarlan, Mrs. H. 23 Jul 1916
 McPherson, Frank 8 Jan 1917
 McQuaig, Joe 21 Apr 1918
 McQuiston, Mrs. -- Feb 1918
 Messler, Carl -- Dec 1920
 Miller, Kate 17 May 1918
 Miller, Mrs. Peter 26 Jul 1919
 Miller, Wilmer 31 Oct 1913
 Mogkelburg?, E. 1 Jan 1917
 Mosher, Jennie W. 27 Sep 1913
 Mosher, Mrs. 15 May 1920
 Moss, Meda 26 May 1919
 Moss, Myron 9 Aug 1907
 Muckelburg, Chris 22 May 1919
 Mudge, Mrs. 18 Dec 1906
 Mudge, Mr. 19 Feb 1918
 Nash, George 25 Mar 1915
 Neal, Eliza 16 Jul 1914
 Newton, Anna 22 Dec 1913
 Nixon, William A. 3 Oct 1910
 Norton, Barney 15 May 1906
 Norton, Hylon 23 Sep 1911
 Norton, Mrs. C. 30 Dec 1917
 Ocobock, Floyd -- Apr 1918
 Owen, Ben 10 Nov 1912
 Owen, Foster 1 Jun 1920
 Parker, Mr. 2 Dec 1907
 Parr, Cy 8 Mar 1918
 Parr, Ellen/Mrs. H. 19 May 1917
 Parr, William 23 Jan 1916
 Patterson -- Dec?1908
 Patterson, Mrs. 10 Feb 1914
 Payne, Day 8 Feb 1913
 Payne, Helen 9 Jul 1916
 Payne, Henry 30 Jan 1909
 Payne, Maud 10 Jun 1920
 Payne, Prudence 7 Sep 1907
 Payne, Thomas 27 Nov 1913
 Pease, Lester 26 Apr 1916
 Percy, Mr. 13 Nov 1908
 Percy, Mrs. 22 Oct 1912
 Perrigo, Mrs. 9 Feb 1911
 Pinkney, Mrs. 1 Nov 1907
 Pinkney, Jack -- May 1917
 Pinkney, Mrs. Jack 15 Oct 1915
 Pinkney, William 6 Dec 1919
 Price, James 1 Oct 1910
 Price, Mrs. Rollie 9 Jan 1919
 Randall, Mrs. 5 Jun 1917

Deaths-Maple Rapids (Cont.)

Randolph, Clara	21 Feb 1920
Ransom, Mr.	20 Feb 1908
Ransom, Mrs.	9 Mar 1918
Reed, Mrs. Allen	18 Jan 1920
Reed, Dorr	25 Jan 1916
Reed, Ed	15 Feb 1913
Reed, Ursula	9 Jul 1915
Rice, Mrs. C.	10 Dec 1917
Robinson, Mart	29 Jan 1916
Roosevelt	6 Jan 1919
Ryker, P. L.	3 Dec 1920
Sanford, Mrs.	3 Mar 1918
Sawyer, Amos	3 Jan 1920
Sawyer, Mrs.	13 Apr 1916
Schaffer, Jesse	24 Oct 1912
Schank, Mr. L.	10 Feb 1908
Schneider, Leo	14 Jan 1908
Scott, Laura	13 Dec 1906
Scott, Mr.	12 Nov 1909
Seaman, Mr.	10 Jan 1919
Sickles, Mrs. Wm.	21 Jul 1906
Sillman, Vina	9 Feb 1920
Sitser, Dell	29 Oct?1917
Sitser, H. E.	18 Jan 1917
Skinner, Abel	16 May 1906
Skinner, Alice	12 Jun 1908
Skinner, Nancy	13 Jan 1914
Skutt, Frank	26 Dec 1919
Slater, Anne B.	30 Dec 1918
Smith, Duck	12 Oct 1918
Smith, Elliott	6 Mar 1920
Smith, Mrs. Elliott	29 Nov 1919
Smith, Frank	12 Jan 1917
Sowle, Mrs. Walt	24 Oct 1913
Sowle, Walt	25 Feb 1916
Sprague, Mrs.	3 Feb 1912
Sturgeon, J. H.	5 Feb 1918
Sturgis, Earl	8 Feb 1919
Sturgis, Vera	25 Feb 1919
Temple, Mrs. Frank	13 Apr 1916
Terry, Mrs.	6 Apr 1907
Terwilliger, Del.	11 Dec 1919
Terwilliger, Mrs. L.	7 Dec 1920
Terwilliger, Thos.	11 Aug 1917
Tichnor, Mrs.	9 Mar 1918
Townsend, Will	14 May 1917
Travis, Carrie	18 May 1920
Trotter, Mr.	-- Oct 1909
Upton, Johnny	6 Jan 1920
Van Scoy, Mrs.	22 Aug 1918

Waldron, (Ed's baby)	9 Feb 1920
Walker, William	23 Apr 1919
Warner, Alta	12 Oct 1909
Warner, Richard	4 Jul 1912
Warner, Sam	9 Apr 1916
Warren, Mrs. Isaac	26 Dec 1908
Waters, Mrs. Terry	14 Mar 1920
Weaver, J. E.	2 Feb 1918
Weaver, Mr.	1 Nov 1907
Weaver, Mrs.	20 Feb 1918
Webster, Carlos	20 Feb 1911
Webster, O. G.	17 Apr 1912
Webster, Molly	12 Nov 1915
Whitacre, John	3 Feb 1916
White, Will	28 Nov 1913
Whitney, George	27 Sep 1913
Whitney, Mrs. Russ	9 Feb 1911
Wilcox, Orinda Adams (Aunt Rind)	26 Mar 1920
Wilson, Joseph	30 Mar 1919
Woods, (baby of Alta Cook Woods)	24 Dec 1917
Wright, Dan	23 Oct 1918
Wright, Dennis	13 Apr 1915
Wright, John	5 Jan 1915
Wright, Mrs. John	30 Oct 1914
Wright, Selinda	21 Sep 1920
Wright, William	26 Jan 1910
Yates, Lida	4 Jul 1913
Yates, June	28 Dec 1908
Yondan, Mrs.	13 Feb 1913
Young, G. C.	3 Nov 1910
Young, Catherine	6 Feb 1919

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DEWITT SCHOOLS HISTORICAL PROJECT

A group of DeWitt area citizens are planning to collect, preserve and display materials related to the history of DeWitt Schools. If you have related items that you might be willing to donate, mail to (or contact) Jackie Lankford, Box 201, DeWitt, MI 48820. (517) 669-9100.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS
AT THE ARCHIVES

Alta Reed's collection of "Genealogy Week" columns from Antique Week; 1989-1991.

A Story of a Parish, (St. John's Episcopal Church), by Winifred C. Daboll; 1937.

6th Sibylline Book, (St. Johns High School Yearbook); 1903.

Our Hewitt Family, by Virginia (Hewitt) Watterson; 1991.

Duplain Church of Christ Directories: 1972, 1978, 1981, 1982.

Jerrine Mead's 1990 Obituary Collection.

Scrapbook kept by Maud Gilson Bair.

Let's We Forget, A Guide to Genealogical Research in the Nation's Capital; 1989.

Descendants of Samuel & Emily (Blakesley) Brown Thurston, by Myrna A. Van Epps; 1991.

Pearce & Related Families of New Salem, MA, and Salem Witchcraft Trials, by Clark S. Gregory, Jr.; 1991.

Plat Book of Ionia Co, MI; ca 1929.

Plat Book of Isabella Co., MI, (undated).

Rural Farm Directory of Shiawassee Co., MI, 1968.

Atlas of Barry Co., MI; 1945.

Plat Book of Eaton Co, MI; ca

1930

Rural Farm Directory of Gratiot Co, MI; 1968.

Rural Farm Directory of Ionia Co, MI; 1969.

History of Levi Greene, by Mary S. Green; 1944.

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1982 BIRTHS INDEXED

Genealogical Society member, Jean Hudson, lately took it upon herself to write index cards for all the births listed in the Clinton County News in 1982. She handed the cards, already sorted in alphabetical order, over to the staff at the Archives, and these cards have been filed for the use of researchers. We are very grateful to her for accepting this task and completing it in a timely manner besides.

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QUERIES

Please send all queries (with SASE) and replies to: QUERY EDITOR, Clinton County Trails, P.O. Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879.

Wilma Sowle
109 Britteny
Lansing, MI 48906

Needs info on Eva EDDY LAKE HALE, mother of Orville, Truman, Mary, Lois, --& Hale of Maple Rapids area, & Douglas LAKE. In 1940's Eva wrote a poem about 5 VOYER boys, serving in W.W. II.

CLINTON COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

In 1990 GRACE ELOISE (WILLIAMS) SAUNDERS of Lake Oswego, Oregon, received Clinton County Pioneer Certificates for her application as a descendant of two pioneers: NELSON DE LONG, SR., and LYDIA ANN AYRES. The documents are on file at the archives and give the following data:

GRACE ELOISE (WILLIAMS) SAUNDERS; b 21 Sept. 1921, Portland, Multnomah Co., OR; homemaker; m EDWARD SAMUEL SAUNDERS, Portland, OR, 2 Nov. 1946.

Her Parents: IVA JEAN DE LONG; b 5 Aug. 1886, Muskegon, MI; homemaker; m LLEWELYN ELIAS WILLIAMS, 17 June 1916, Portland, OR; d 13 Mar. 1979, Portland; bur. Sunset Hills, Portland.

Grandparents: WILLIAM IRA "ALLEN" DE LONG; b Feb. 1852, Essex Twp., Clinton Co, MI; Carpenter; m GENEVIEVE "JENNY" CALLAHAN, 1880?, Lebanon Twp., Clinton Co.; d 1 Oct 1908, Chicago, IL; bur. Forest Home, Chicago.

Great-Grandparents: NELSON DE LONG, SR.; b 1814, NY; farmer; settled in Section 30, Essex Twp., Clinton Co., MI; m LYDIA ANN AYRES, 24 Dec 1840, Lebanon Twp., Clinton Co. (Courtland Hill, J.P.); d 1891, Clinton Co.; His father b in England. LYDIA ANN AYRES was b 15 Apr 1815, NY; Homemaker; d 22 Sept 1874, Essex Twp. Both are buried in Jones/Beech Cem., Essex Twp.

A biography included with the Pioneer Certificate Application regarding the Hon. NELSON DE LONG says, "He came to Michigan a young man full of ambition and earnest purpose to win his way in life, and was successful in his vocation. A pioneer of Clinton County, he shared the privations of the early days and, clearing, cultivating and improving the land, participated in the promotion of the farming interests of his adopted state. His beloved wife, daughter of JOHN AYERS (sic), entered into rest many years before her husband." He attended Normal

School at Maple Rapids, graduated from the University of Michigan 29 March 1871, and then began a law practice in Maple Rapids. The biography further describes him: "At the Bar of the State of Michigan many men have won brilliant triumphs, but none have attained a greater fame than that which a just recognition of his talents brings to Mr. De Long, who is conceded to be the ablest jury lawyer in central and western Michigan." He later moved to Muskegon where he was twice chosen Mayor.

AUTOGRAPH BOOK
OF
MARY (JONES) PARKS (1865-1956)
Riley Twp., Clinton Co., MI

HUNGERFORD, MINNIE H. KEENY,
BERTIE
KENT, BERT
KRIMENSCHNIEDER, CARRIE
LOVE, ELMER
LOVE, IDA BELLE
PEPPLE, EMMA
STEVENS, NELL
STEVENS, NINA (Miss)
WEATHERBEE, IDA

AUTOGRAPH BOOK
OF
MAGGIE E. HEIBECK, FOWLER, MI

BERLIN, ALBERT
BIEDERSTEADT, ANNA
BIEDERSTEADT, AUGUST
BIENESTEADT, CHARLES G.
BIENESTEADT, JOHN C. F.
ELLIS, GEORGE
ELLIS, IDA M.
ELLIS, LULU B.
ELLIS, MATTIE
HEIBECK, ANNIE V.
HEIBECK, D. E.
HEIBECK, GEORGE F.
HEIBECK, JOHN C.
HEIBECK, MAGGIEE
HEIBECK, MARY
MOHNKE, IDA
PATTERSON, LIZZIE
PEPPLE, LULA
SHAFLEY, THERESA M.
SHAFLEY, TRULIE A.
SMELTZER, SMOCKSIE

AUTOGRAPH BOOK
OF
MARY (IRRER) CHANT

BEHRENS, ANNA
CHANT, ALBERT
CHANT, ARTHUR
CHANT, DAISY
CHANT, DORIS
CRAMPTON, IVA
DAVIS, E. (Pastor)
GARAGNON, JULES F.
GEORGIA, ALICE
GRAHAM, MELISSA
HALSEY, ELECTA L.
HALSEY, H. P.
HALSEY, LUNA V. E. (Tchr.)
HALSEY, MARY
HALSEY, SYLVIA E.
HAMMOND, PEARL A.
HATCH, S. F.
~~HIRRELL, T. (Miss)~~ *THIELL, CORA J.*
IRRER, ALBERT
IRRER, FRED
IRRER, H. E.
IRRER, MARY
IRRER, KATIE
LOVE, EDNA
MACK, W. R.
PRUDEN, JANIE
PRUDEN, ORAL
PRUDEN, J. W.
SHEPPER, CHRIS
SCHAEBERLE, MATTIE
SLATER, FRANK
STIRM, SARAH
SUTTON, GRACE
THIELL, DELLA
WIDMAYER, KATIE
WIDMAYER, LIZZIE
WIDMAYER, MARY A.

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The December Christmas Pot Luck will be held at the Clinton County Senior Drop-In Center, 315 N. Clinton Ave., Downtown St. Johns, on December 2, 1991 at 6:30pm. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Gifts for the Archives will be welcomed and we will be gathering goodies for a Christmas Box to be given to a needy family. It is expected there will be many in need this year, so if you are able, be generous.