



Genealogists of the  
Clinton County Historical Society

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# Clinton County Trails

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V-Pres. JoAnn Slabonck  
Sec'y .. Jean Serviss  
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## ARCHIVES

Myrna Van Epps

## NEWSLETTER

### Co-Editors

Myrna Van Epps  
Arlene (Conley) Smith

## LOIS AND EARL FOHL DEDICATED CONTRIBUTORS

Lois Fohl and her late husband, Earl, early members of the Clinton Co. Historical Society, were also promoters of the archives and dedicated workers on its behalf. Together they unobtrusively undertook numerous jobs. They spent hours at home and days at the archives doing the detailed work that makes archival records more



accessible. Earl was an expert typist, and Lois a stickler for details.

The genealogists proposed a resolution at their September 12, 1994, meeting in an effort to formally recognize and record the Fohls's accomplishments. They also chose to present Lois with a lifetime membership in the CCHS. Lois has recently moved to Holland, MI, where she is wished many happy and comfortable years.

The proposal appears on the following page. □

# Resolution

12 September, 1994

Whereas, Lois and Carl Fohl generously gave of their time for the benefit of the Archives of the Clinton County Historical Society;

And Whereas, Lois and Carl Fohl prepared early issues of Clinton County Trails;

And Whereas, Lois and Carl Fohl did the detailed work necessary to complete many compilation, indexing, and typing projects, especially working on several large obituary collections;

And Whereas, the diligence of Lois and Carl Fohl made the research work of the archives' patrons infinitely more efficient;

Therefore, it is Resolved that the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society hereby express their gratitude to Lois and Carl Fohl;

And it is Further Resolved that Lois and Carl Fohl's extensive gifts of time and effort, and the kind and quiet ways in which they were offered will long be remembered.

Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society

Marylse Brooks, Chairperson

## BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF MAPLE RAPIDS

*as recalled by Wilma Sowle - 26 July 1994*

The Blue Star Mothers was organized near the beginning of WWII, to benefit servicemen and women. Armed with the advice of the St. Johns group, Velma Upham and **Wilma Sowle** instituted a Maple Rapids chapter.

**Bertha Abbott**, an early member, lost her son near England. **Lyle Smith** and **Orin Riker** were the names of other Maple Rapids servicemen who were killed in WWII.

A major function of the Blue Star Mothers was to pack and ship gift boxes to service personnel. They tried to send each person a box near their birthday and everyone a box at Christmas time. Local businesses contributed items. Individuals gave homemade cookies, candy, and other items. Chewing gum, toothbrushes, soap, socks, handkerchiefs, combs, and similar supplies were used as they tried to stuff every nook and cranny of each package.

Another of the group's activities was to occasionally travel to the veterans' hospital in Grand Rapids to visit and stage parties for the patients there. The women took along cookies and other re-freshments and organized bingo games, giving out money and useful gifts as prizes. Every month they donated money for the support of the Veterans' Hospital.

In conjunction with other chapters, the Maple Rapids women helped buy a house near Lake Orion for homeless veterans. **Wilma Sowle** laughs to recall the time about 1943 when she, **Mattie Upton**, **Nellie Low**, and **Belle Schmidt** transported a cow from Maple Rapids to the Lake Orion house. The Blue Star Mothers had purchased Bossie from **Woodrow**

**Upton** for the milk she could produce, and these stalwart ladies took on the delivery assignment. The trailer was rickety, so they had to stop often to make sure the cow was still there. The journey proved long and troublesome. Although the cow and escorts survived the trip, it was memorable! The need for the Lake Orion house was not as large as anticipated, and it was disposed of after a few years' use.

In time the organization cleaned up the Maple Rapids Cemetery and revived the Memorial Day services held there. The veterans, the GAR, the WRC, bands, and others paraded from the Grange Hall (sometimes called the Oddfellows Hall) to the cemetery. A potluck dinner would follow at the hall after the memorial services. □

## HOWARD D. EDDY 1899-1994

Howard D. Eddy, 94, of Pleasant Hills, CA, died June 13, 1994, at Guardian of Concord.

A native of Eagle, MI, Mr. Eddy lived in CA for 40 years and previously lived in Lansing, South Africa, NY City, Dayton, OH; and Oakland.

He owned Eddy Motors in Concord for 28 years and was a member of Mt. Diablo Masonic Lodge F&AM #448 in Concord; Grand Ledge Lodge F&AM #179 [for 70 years]; Aahmes Temple in Livermore; Scottish Rite in Oakland; Concord Rotary Club; and National Automobile Dealers Assoc. He also served as past president of Concord High Twelve and was a former board member of Costra Costa Savings and Loan and Mt. Diablo First National Bank.

He is survived by his wife, Marion Eddy of Pleasant Hill, CA; son, Elton Eddy of Rio Vista; 2 daughters, Joanne Applegate of San Pedro and Helen O'Connor of Park

gr-children; and 2 gr-gr-children. Services were held June 16 at Bryant and Moore Chapel, Concord, with entombment at Oakmont Mem. Park, Lafayette. □

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

**Janet Dunn** and **Wilma Sowle** abstracted the data on the next several pages which lists the names of WWI service personnel whose letters home were published in the newspaper. Janet can also be credited with spotting the following article:

## **UNCLE SAM WANTS NUT SHELLS AND PITS**

*The Clinton Republican - 3 Oct. 1918*

The government wants you to save, clean, dry, and deliver to places provided in town for the collection of same, pits of peaches, prunes, plums, apricots, olives, cherries, and dates; also the shells of Brazil nuts, walnuts, and butternuts.

These are used to make carbon to be used in the gas masks. Every American man, woman, or child who has a relative or friend in the army should consider it a matter of personal obligation to provide enough carbon-making material to make one gas mask. Two hundred peach pits, or seven pounds of nut shells will make enough carbon for one mask. There will be places to leave these in each town in the county. □

## **COLONIAL OCCUPATIONS**

*From Saginaw Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 1.*

Leech/Sawbones - Physician  
Dowser - Water Finder  
Glazier - Window Glassman  
Hooper - Makes hoops for casks  
Chandler - Candlemaker

Vulcan - Blacksmith  
Burgomaster - Mayor  
Mintmaster - Issued local currency  
Amanuensis - Secretary/Stenographer  
Tidewaiter - Customs Inspector  
Scrutineer - Election Judge  
Fletcher - Made bows and arrows  
Webster - Operated looms  
Sorter - Tailor  
Hatcheler - Combed out or carded flax  
Snobscat - Repaired shoes  
Costermonger - Peddler of fruit & vegetables  
Cordwainer - Shoemaker □

## **FROM RABBIT TRACKS,**

vol. 9, No. 4.

"H/F" after a person's name may be found in marriage and birth records. The letters stand for "handfast." It is basically a sign of the confirmation of a non-canonical, private, or even probationary form of marriage. Handfasting was a form of announcing a union between a man and a woman who wished to live together as husband and wife before receiving the blessing of the church.

The couple would stand before a group of their peers, hold their clasped hands above their heads and state their intentions. The agreement was good for a year and a day or until the preacher came to perform the rites of the church. If at the end of the specified time both wished to go their own way, they could do so with no ties. No matter what happened, any child of Handfast was considered legitimate and would inherit. □

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

From *"The Searcher,"* Jackson County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Jan/Feb 1994.

