Clinton County Historical Society
CELEBRATING
50 Years
CCHS 50th Anniversary News

Volume 1 Issue 7 August 2024

CCHS at Mint Festival

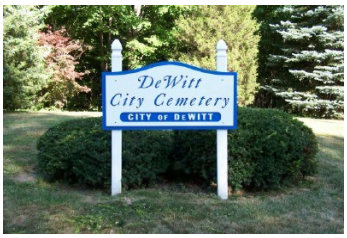
Cemetery Walks Planned

The CCHS is planning cemetery walks at Mount Rest Cemetery in St. Johns and the DeWitt Cemetery in DeWitt this fall.

Wayne Summers will be guiding a visit to the DeWitt Cemetery on September 12th at 10am and 6:45pm. It will include visiting a few graves of people from the earliest days to the present with interesting tales to tell.

On Sunday, October 13th, Alice and Pete Murphy will take us on a walking tour through Mount Rest Cemetery in St. Johns. The tour will begin at 2pm and we are working on transportation services to and from Mount Rest to accommodate the limited parking available.

More details will be available for both of these options in our September newsletter.



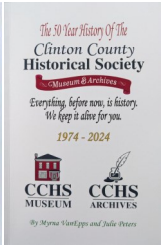


Be sure and look for us at the St. Johns Mint Festival on August 9th-11th. We will be making an appearance in the parade with some of our high wheel bicycle friends from the Michigan Wheelmen on Saturday starting at 10 AM.

We also will be hosting a vendor booth in the St. Johns City Park all weekend long with lots of goodies to share. CCHS board member and local artist Mike Morey will be available for caricature drawings.

We will be selling our commemorative mugs and tumblers as well as our very own history book. The books sell for $10 each, and the 50th commemorative mugs and tumblers are $20 each.





The CCHS Museum located at 106 Maple St. in St. Johns will also be open both Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 PM.

It is sure to be a great weekend and we hope to see you!

Upcoming Events

August 9-11 — Mint Festival

September 12—DeWitt Cemetery Walks 10am & 6:45pm

September 21 & 28 — Museums and Archive Tours

The CCHS will sponsor bus tours to visit our county's local museums and the CCHS archives. See the flyer in this issue for more details.

October 13—Mount Rest Cemetery Tour at 2pm.

Historical Road Trips

Would you like to take a Clinton County history road trip? We are in the process of preparing a number of road trips which you can take to visit important Clinton County historical sites.

Added this month are:

⇒ St. Johns downtown walking tour.

⇒ Bengal Township, Bingham Township, Greenbush Township, Lebanon Township, Ovid Township, and Victor Township car road trips.

These and other road trip routes can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

Enduring Farmers Event

The "Enduring Farmers of Clinton County" event held on July 11 th was by all accounts a smashing success!

32 Centennial and Sesquicentennial farmers and their families along with CCHS volunteers for a grand total of 125 folks spent an engaging and entertaining evening at AgroLiquid.

Highlights of the night included family photos with an antique centennial farm sign; dinner that included cake and homemade ice cream; certificates of appreciation for every farmer; an interesting presentation from Scott Piggott on the history of agriculture in Clinton County and an entertaining auction which raised over $3500 that benefitted CCHS. Many thanks to all who donated time, money and prizes!



The CCHS was thrilled with the response from the farming community and proud to have been able to formally recognize and appreciate everyone who joined us. We have also acknowledged the need to gather more formal Centennial and Sesquicentennial farm information and are hopeful that our Archives could lead that campaign.



Lon Gibson Farm Family

Meet the Volunteers

Lynne Gregory



Lynne grew up in St. Johns and worked as an elementary teacher for over 37 years. Lynne founded the special education program and has taught in Clinton County and overseas.

She has enjoyed traveling and has visited all 50 states and 167 countries. She has climbed a 14,000 foot mountain in Hindu Kush, ridden an elephant though the jungle, and a camel over the desert. She was even an extra in the movie "The Man with the Golden Gun."

While living overseas, along with teaching, Lynne ran a U.S. Government hotel, researched and wrote several U.S. Government publications, and edited an English language newspaper.

Research and teaching local and family history, reading, gardening, puzzles, and ethnic foods have been some of her passions.

Lynne has served as the CCHS Vice President from 2001-2003 and President since 2004.

CCHS ARCHIVES

16101 Brook Road, Lansing 48906

https://opennet.us/cchs

Enduring Farm Database

The Archives of the CCHS proposes keeping a database of centennial and sesquicentennial farms for and their historical records and future reference.

Any data the public can provide to keep the records updated would be appreciated.

The Archives holds many resources valuable to researchers of rural properties; such as, tax records; plat maps; photos; genealogical information; etc.

From Our eMail Folder

We really enjoyed the Farm Event last week. You all put much work into it and it was so organized and run well. We saw so many people that we had not seen in a while. The speaker was very interesting. The food was delicious. It was just a fun time!!

Carole Livingston

Tornado Walk a Success

On July 14, 2024, Alice Murphy described the 1920 tornado, which tore through St. Johns, as she led a group of 34 adults and children, walking from the Clinton Co. Historical Museum Campus to the depot on Railroad St.



Her thoroughly researched depiction of the event was further illustrated by exhibits in the historic depot, also where refreshments were welcomed by the group on that hot summer day.



Alice had this to say about her favorite audience member:

"This little boy in yellow was a delight. He is going into Kindergarten. As we left the museum, he asked me if the tornado was a Category 4 or 5. I told him it was probably a Category 4 when it touched down and a Category 2 when it left Clinton County, but that he was probably the only one there who knew what that meant, so I just mentioned wind speeds. He wants to be a weatherman and loves tornados. At the depot I asked him what he liked best about the talk and he said, 'EVERYTHING!' His Dad showed us his tornado Halloween costume made from a tomato cage and gauze. I wish I had gotten his name."

Bath School Museum

The Bath School Museum committee is embarking on a project to build a new museum in James Couzens Park. The proposed building will share the history of Bath Schools and memorialize the victims of the Bath School Disaster of May 18, 1927. The committee's goal is to have the new museum open to the public for the 100 th anniversary of the disaster. Monetary contributions of any size are most welcome.

Contacts:

Bath School Museum;
Attn: Bldg. Fund
PO Box 246; Bath, MI 48808
www.bathschoolmuseum.org
bath.museum1927@gmail.com
517-641-6721
Facebook.com/Bath School Museum

CCHS MUSEUM

106 Maple St., St. Johns 48879

CCHistoricalMuseum.org

One easy way to help the Museum is to shop at Kroger. When you shop Kroger donates a percentage of the sale to the charity of your choice. This is at no cost to you! Please choose us as your charity.

Krogercommunityrewards.com

Register your Kroger Card for #DQ655 Clinton County Historical Society.

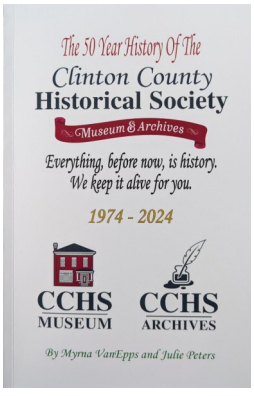
We Sincerely thank those who are helping this

50th History Book

The 50 Year History of the Clinton County Historical Society; 1974 -2024 has been published.

The 120-page book is 5 ½" X 8 ½". It includes many pictures and is printed in color. It can be purchased for $10.

Contact Julie Peters (text or call leaving a message 989-501-0599 or you can email her at petersj@msu.edu) It can also be purchased at the Museum, the Archives, or during the Mint Festival.



CELEBRATING
50 Years
Clinton County
Historical Society
CCHS
Est. 1974



Take A History Tour With Us!

The Clinton County Historical Society invites you to take a bus tour of all our County museums and the CCHS Archives!

Choose your itinerary…

- North Loop (Ovid, Elsie & St. Johns Museums)
- South Loop (Westphalia & Bath Museums & the CCHS Archives)

Choose your date…

- Saturday, September 21, 2024
- Saturday, September 28, 2024

[OR TAKE BOTH TOURS ON CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS!]

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All tours begin at the Community Church, 100 Maple St., St. Johns.

Ride in climate controlled comfort, provided by Clinton Transit.

Buses depart the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. sharp for all tours.

We will stop for lunch half way through each tour.

(Lunch is not included in the ticket price.)

The north loop tour will end at 2:45 p.m.

The south loop tour will end at 3:35 p.m.

Each loop ticket is $10. Tickets are limited. We accept cash or check. Contact Julie Peters at 989-501-0599 to arrange picking up your ticket. Checks can be made out to "CCHS 50 Year Fund." There is a "No Refund" policy. Most museums are not handicap accessible and no food is allowed on the bus. Water is allowed.

THE ARCHIVES IS FINISHED!

After two months of hard labor (literally hard labor) the Archives looks amazing! Since DeWitt Township was generous enough to give us another room, we have moved all the old tax books (very heavy tax books) into the new room which made the middle room easier to rearrange. Where we had shelves full of newspapers in the middle of the floor, they now line the whole north wall and the two work tables fill the middle space. We've added more shelves from the MSU Surplus Store, and the Briggs District Library was generous to donate a cabinet, map drawer, and some needed chairs.

I could not have completed this without help from Casey Eiseler, Rex Ferguson, Cindy Kindel, Mike Morey, Pete & Alice Murphy, Chuck Peters, Corey Smith, Rowlan Smith, Chad Stevens, and Myrna VanEpps. I thank them very much!

NEW ROOM

BEFORE



AFTER



MIDDLE ROOM

BEFORE



AFTER

