Clinton County Historical Society
Museum & Archives
Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 9 | cchsmichigan.org | October 2026

Halloween at the Museum

Volunteer of the Month

Kathy Bates



Kathy is a 2nd generation volunteer with the Clinton County Historical Society Museum. She became involved with the Museum after her father; long-time museum volunteer, William McCarthy passed in 2022 and the family worked to create the High Wheel bicycle sculpture that is dedicated to both of her parents William and Rosemary McCarthy.

Kathy helps out with many special projects including exhibit displays, Christmas and other holiday decorating, cleaning and even trimming shrubs and bushes in the yard. She is always willing to help whatever and whenever the need arises. She has secured donations and has helped to make many connections between the Museum and the surrounding communities.

Kathy is a pre-school teacher with the Great Start Readiness Program in Elsie, MI and is a proud "Kiki" to 4 grandchildren who are busy with soccer, volleyball, football, basketball, swimming and karate and she spends much of her time attending tournaments, games, meets and competitions!

Mt. Rest Cemetery Walk

Alice Murphy will be conducting another of her popular walks at Mt. Rest Cemetery on October 11th at 2pm with a rain date of October 18th.

We will meet at the mausoleum and take an approximately 3/4 mile guided walking tour of the oldest sections sharing stories of early St. Johns pioneers, innovators, and community history.

The walk is free, however, donations to the Clinton County Historical Society are appreciated.

Mt. Rest Cemetery is located at 701 E. Steel Street, St. Johns.

Saturday, October 31st from 10 – 1 PM please join us on the lawn of the Museum for free cider and donuts, Halloween candy bags for the kids (costumes are highly encouraged), and some "spooky" decorations. The Museum, Carriage House and General Store will all be open! Don't worry if the weather doesn't cooperate, we will just move our fun indoors!

Please don't miss out on the fun!

October 31 st will be the last time to catch a glimpse of the "100 years of Rodney B. Wilson" exhibit at the Museum. The exhibit will be dismantled in preparation for our Christmas 2026 season: "Vintage Christmas".

The 100 years of RBW exhibit will be loaned to the City of St Johns for display in the Wilson Center after renovations are completed in 2027.

The CCHS Museum is located at 106 Maple Street, St. Johns.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting and fall program will be held on Thursday, November 5th from 6-7:30pm at the Bingham Township Hall which is located at 2057 N. Lansing Street, St. Johns.

Join us for an evening that includes the 2026 CCHS year in review and voting for Board positions.

The featured presentation will be "Divine Preservation and Fermentation" presented by CCHS Board member Paul Zelenak. He purchased the Greenbush United Methodist Church building on North Scott Road in St. Johns. Paul will share his tales of restoration and his plans for the future of this Michigan State Historic Site that was first dedicated in 1898.

Doors open at 5:30. This event is open to the public and is free for members. Dinner will be provided.

Save the date. You won't want to miss this!

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

MAY - AUG 2026
Meeting: Sept. 9, 2026

I bet you thought there was never going to be another Archives report! Over the summer we had 34 visitors, 2 new volunteers, and 1 retired.

First, let me tell you about Myrna. For over 30 years she maintained the Archives as the Director and then continued as a working volunteer for another 10 years. Everywhere you look at the Archives, you see her work and organizational skills to make it the place it is today. She made it easy for me to take over and follow her lead. She has been my rock and we will miss her smile, her laugh and her wonderful sense of humor at the office. We wish her good health and happiness and I sincerely hope she will answer when I call for her advice.

Our new volunteers are Alice Murphy and Sue Ann (Suchek) Olson. If you read the Clinton County Trails, you will recognize Alice's name as an article contributor and for that we are very grateful. She and her husband, Pete, contributed many articles that are filled with Clinton County history. Since Pete's passing, she has found time to become a volunteer willing to work with me on Tuesdays. And for that I am grateful.

Sue Ann was a local to St. Johns for many years, then moved away, and then, luckily for me, has moved back and taken up the desire to volunteer. She is also working with me on Tuesday until her training is complete. Then you will be able to find her at the Archives on Mondays helping Rowlan take care of our visitors and completing the behind the scenes duties. Rowlan has been a volunteer for over 20 years so he will be great at helping with her on the job training.

I can't say enough how much I appreciate each and every volunteer that helps to keep the CCHS running. Each brings different talents and is willing to share them. When you see a volunteer, please thank them.

We have gained a new document and book scanner thanks to Wayne Summers. And he is putting in more volunteering hours playing, I mean learning, everything it can do and how it will benefit the Archives. I think it will be a wonderful addition to making our life easier by scanning items we physically couldn't do before, like the County Tax Books. Thank you very much Wayne and it's nice seeing you in the office more.

Cindy is making headway on getting all the negatives we have accumulated over the years scanned and eventually becoming photos we can share with you online. And speaking of online, we are in the process of moving the Archives webpage to a Google Cloud space to make it easier to be updated, searched and accessed. We want to thank Jon Summers,

who is Wayne's son, a very big thank you for being the "host" to the webpage for many, many years and making changes to the coding for new databases I think would be of help to all the researchers out there. It is in process and gives me the reason to learn some more coding that I've never had to do. So please be patient and let us know if you see links that don't work, or typos. I really hate when I do that. Thank you Jon!

There is lots to be added below with not being able to do a monthly report for a few months. So researchers who pay attention to this part, I do appreciate you and I hope you find a name that you've been looking for.

BUSINESSES:

- CD; Sealed Power/Dana [BU 100 - S]
- 1938 Gazetteer of Michigan

CEMETERIES:

- Union Home Cemetery, 2006 Burial Updates; Walter Smith

CHURCHES:

- CD: List of SJ Congregational Church Pastors

HISTORIES:

- CD; SJ Centennial Home Movies 2006 [H 251] [T1]

ORGANIZATIONS:

- AMICA Club history & constitution [N / OR 102]
- Ancient Order of Gleaners - Bengal Arbor: Record Book- minutes of meetings in Front, list of members in back; 8 postcards with names & addresses of each sec-treas; 5 quarterly collection reports, 1921 & 1922; May 6, 1919 letter from Detroit headquarters listing current members; long list of people from SJ and rural routes and their addresses from ca 1925 (hundreds)

PHOTOS:

- Sylvia May James
- Harold D. Wilcox (Age 1 June 17, 1908
- B. A. Randall (404 Railroad St.)
- Robert Dart Ward (left) & John Lawrence Ward
- Myrna Sawady
- Myron Ward & Myrna Sawady
- Edith May Sprague (married Arthur James of Canada)
- Pollie Sprague Harwood (Lilly Sprague's aunt)
- Sylvia Marilla Sprague Tiffany
- Daisy Osgood (Age 14, 1898)
- Lilly Albertson
- Grace Holmes (d. 21 Sept 1899)
- Cooley Ball / Arthur Wilson House, 110 Maple Ave., SJ
- Hick's Mansion, W. State St.
- Jordan Café, 4300 N. East St., Lansing, DeWitt Twp.
- Drakes Service Station; 1201 N. US 27, SJ
- Grace King Putt
- Ambra King Putt
- Sally Putt (baby)
- Sally Putt (toddler)
- Zelma Putt Osgod

- M/M Charles L. Putt
- Fenimore, Jenni Lynn Eagle Putt
- Clark & Linnie Putt
- Fenimore Eddie Putt
- Fenimore E. Putt
- Dr. F. E. Putt
- Bert King 16 yrs Nov 18, 1890
- Rev. A. W. Simmons & family
- A. W. Simmons 1912
- Son of A. W. Simmons, Wellman d. 1914
- Hortense Lyon & Uncle Harry D. Squair 1915
- Grandmother & Grandfather Young's family
- 4th grade at Eastside School
- Read Family, ca early 1900's
- 1947 Maple Rapids School Photo; 2nd grade; Front Row: Elmer UPTON, Wm BANCROFT, Roger GLEASON, Henry YOUNG, Daniel RAMON, Terry MYERS (foster son of Kenneth & Hazel Wright), Del ALLEN, Kenneth WILSON; Middle Row: Elaine BAXTER, Ione KIRVAN, Sharon HOPE, Sarah BERKHOUSEN, Julia SANFORD, Nancy RUMSEY, Lonnie BOLYARD, Judy MARSH, Sharon BRYANT, Raymond WALLACE, Richard LUNA; Back Row: Duane LARKIN, Gary BAKER, Steve BANCROFT, John HOUSEMAN, Jim HUSTED, Nelson RUMSEY, Mary Ann MCNINCH, Doris HOOVER, Janet GILLSON, Louis WRIGHT, Vernon FORS, J. HOOVER, Nancy SANDBORN; Missing: Dick UPTON; Teacher: Gladys Annis
- Extra Large X-81: The Variety Store in DeWitt, ca 1950
- SJ RBW Class of 1929
- Bingham Grange Hall (all 4 sides)
- Lynn Bliss
- Lynn Bliss 1930
- Bill Knight 1930
- Bill Knight 1931
- Coach Kleis?
- Gladys Walker
- Laura N. Moss & Gladys Walker?
- Eula N. Austin 1932
- Beatrice Motz 1931
- Clark & Linnie Putt
- Betty Jane Siegel, Dec. 1925
- Amy Palus
- Judy Goerge, Corinna Batora, Robin Scheffler, Bill Brown
- Charles & Velma Coletta, Bob Sheap
- Troy Bancroft, George Rosette, Dave Szymczak
- Troy Bancroft accepts award 1998
- Courthouse Pinkouts 2009
- 1955 RBW Physics Room, Doug Austin, Gary Light, Tom Beechler, Bob Root, Stanley Carpenter, Sid Galloway

DIGITAL ONLY PHOTOS:

SCHOOLS: - 1989 RBW Middle School Yearbook [DPI 000]

PIONEER RECORDS:

- Pioneer Stories from: Ray G. ANDREWS, Clarissy Jason HUNTOON, Philo P. PECK, David SCOTT, Anonymous, Stephen Henry HICKS, Dorr K. STOWELL, Wesley Eugene WARNER, N. B. HAYES, George W. EMMONS, Joshua LOWELL, Clare Arnold KOENIGSKNECHT

SCHOOLS:

- 1941-42 DeWitt High School "The Factsonian" news Vol. 3, # 1-11
- 1949 DeWitt High School My Senior Year ; Marilyn (Staub) Coin
- Class of 1957 Reunion Pictures & Booklets for 1977, 1982, 1992, 1997, 2017

SCRAPBOOKS:

- Late 1800s misc. articles and obituaries of Clinton County residents

VITAL RECORDS:

- Obituaries 1800's - 1900's A-C [S 126A], D-H [S 126B], I-L [S 126C], M-R [S 126D], S - Z [S126E]

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Peters, Director
CCHS Archives

