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

Volume 1 Issue 6 July 2024

CCHS History Book Published

St Johns Tornado Walk

Alice Murphy will be leading a free narrated tornado walk at 2pm on July 14th.

The tornado walk describes the damage done in St Johns and Clinton Co when hit by a tornado on March 28, 1920; winds varied from about 100 to 200+ MPH.

The walk starts at the Museum and ends at the Depot. It should take about 45 minutes.

Attendees can park at the Community Church lot [former Congregational] or the courthouse lot.

1920 Tornado Damage



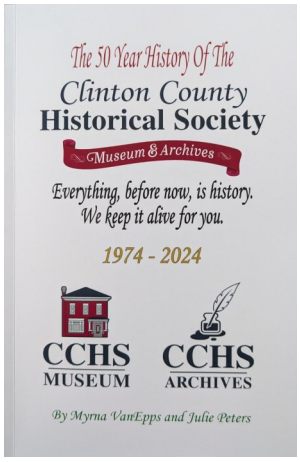
Enduring Farmers Event

On Thursday, July 11th, from 4-9 pm, the CCHS is hosting an event at AgroLiquid in St Johns titled, "Enduring Farmers of Clinton County," to honor sesquicentennial and centennial farmers across Clinton County. This event is by invitation for the farmers and their families being honored and is not open to the general public.

We plan to have a recognition ceremony, antique tractors, homemade ice cream, and displays. Our keynote speaker, Scott Piggott, will reminisce about the history of farming in Clinton County.

The CCHS feels honoring farms and farmers in Clinton County is a great way to pay tribute to the backbone of our county.

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



When in 2022 Julie Peters realized that 2024 would mark the 50th anniversary of CCHS, she began promoting the idea of a celebration and proposed the idea of a book on the subject. Myrna Van Epps agreed to help and an anonymous underwriter stepped forward.

Records were mined; facts were compiled; stories were written; pictures were collected; and memories were explored. Gradually, a cohesive story of the CCHS emerged. The research revealed an impressive list of reasons to be proud of all the organization has accomplished in fifty years. It also produced a lengthy list of volunteers, professionals, and donors who supported and encouraged us.

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 email petersj@msu.edu) It can also be purchased at the Museum or the Archives.

Upcoming Events

August 9-11 — Mint Festival

September — Museums and Archive Tours

The CCHS will sponsor bus tours to visit our county's local museums and the CCHS archives.

October 13—Mount Rest Cemetery Tour

Additional Events to be Announced

CCHS ARCHIVES

16101 Brook Road, Lansing 48906
https://opennet.us/cchs

Archives News

MYSTERY FARMS. With the Nov. 11, 1954, issue of *The Clinton Co. Republican-News*, a series of aerial photos of local farms was published with no identity given. A pilot from Zekan-Robbins Co., of Harlan, Iowa, flew apx. 300 miles criss-crossing the county to take pictures.

Each week readers were encouraged to contact the newspaper if they could identify the farm featured. Those clue-solvers were then named in the following issue and the farm owner was revealed, usually with some added information regarding the extended family or the farm itself. The owner was given the photo, enlarged and mounted. The popular Mystery Farm series ended with the Dec. 26, 1957, issue.

Alice Murphy clipped the articles and they are now in an indexed album at the Archives.

Be on the lookout for these safecrackers!

What does it take to open the locked bottom drawer of a file cabinet at the Archives? paper clip; hammer; letter opener; cell phone flashlight; Google, etc.

Julie Peters and Mike Morey got it done on June 11th as staff continues to work reorganizing the space.



DeWitt History Walk Update

The history walk was a success with 39 people taking the 1 mile walk past over 2 dozen historical sites.

A fall DeWitt Cemetery walk is being planned which will focus on stories of early settlers. The date will be announced in a future newsletter.

Meet the Volunteers

Kelly Jurman



Kelly Jurman serves as the Director of the Clinton County Historical Museum and is a 2nd generation volunteer as her father, Bill McCarthy, was a long-time volunteer at the Museum as well. Kelly is a newer volunteer and joined the Museum Advisory Board in January of 2023.

Kelly was born and raised in St Johns, graduated from Central Michigan University (Go Chips!) and worked as a public health professional for nearly 20 years. Kelly and her husband, Mark, reside in South Lyon, MI and have two daughters and sons-in-law, Caitlin and Joe in Beacon, NY and Cecily and Chris in Seattle, WA. Kelly and Mark are also proud new grandparents to twins, Eli and Penelope born in January 2024.

Kelly and Mark have crisscrossed the United States multiple times for employment opportunities that have landed them in California, Oregon, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Michigan. Kelly enjoys traveling, the Turner Classic Movie channel and listening to jazz and the American Standards from 1940-1960s.

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:

⇒ DeWitt City is divided into 3 parts and is best used as walking or bike tours.

⇒ Bath Township, DeWitt Township, Eagle Township, Olive Township, and Watertown Township routes are car road trips.

Routes can be downloaded from our website.

May-June CCHS Birthdays

Julie Peters, Archives Director—July 1
Mark Walling, Volunteer—July 7
Kim Sperry, CCT Editor—July 16
Myrna VanEpps, Volunteer—July 24
Elissa Ryan, Volunteer—July 28