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

Volume 1 Issue 10 November 2024

50th Year Celebration Concludes

Carriage House Rededication

The weekend of October 12th and 13th was a busy one for us.

On Saturday, October 12th nearly 45 people joined us as we hosted a rededication of the Carriage House on our Museum campus.







We also dedicated a time capsule that will be held on display at the Clinton County Courthouse until it is opened on February 28, 2074. Among the many artifacts in the time capsule will be lots of photos, articles and documents from 2024. Although the capsule was dedicated in October, we will be collecting artifacts until the end of 2024.

We will be honoring the volunteers and celebrating our accomplishments with a potluck party on November 2nd at the DeWitt Township Community Center.

Members present will also vote on the election of the CCHS 2025 governing board. The CCHS nominating committee has recommended the following candidates: Michael Morey for President, Lynne Gregory for Vice President, Gayla Phillips for Treasurer, Wayne Summers for Secretary, Rowlan Smith for Membership, and Judy Hubler and Debra Cox as trustees. Members may nominate additional candidates at the meeting.

Volunteer Christmas Lunch

Museum and Archives staff and volunteers will be joining with the CCHS Board of Directors for a Christmas luncheon on December 5th. This has been an annual tradition for many years. Invites will go out next week.

Archives Closure

The archives will be closed on **Tuesday, November 5th** for elections.

(**Carriage House Rededication** continued)

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 13th, local historian Alice Murphy led us on a guided tour of the Mt Rest cemetery in St. Johns. Although the day started cloudy and rainy, once the tour began the rain held off for us until the end! Over 40 people met at the Mausoleum and followed Alice and her husband, Pete, on a journey through time as we heard about Clinton County's famous and infamous residents who are buried at Mt Rest. What a wonderful, historical way to end the weekend.

Museum Tour

On September 28th, a small but enthusiastic group of history buffs took a guided tour of two local museums and the historical archives of Clinton County. This was another event organized to spotlight and celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Clinton County Historical Society.

It was a pleasant Saturday morning when the group departed St. Johns in a Clinton Area Transit bus headed for the Westphalia museum.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by Leo Pohl, Judy Thelen, and Bernadette Thelen, who gave an informative presentation before allowing the group to wander about to look at the incredible displays.



Evelyn Weiland talks to group

Then we were treated with the arrival of 98 year-old Evelyn Weiland, who founded the Westphalia Historical Society in 1985!

We stopped for lunch at the Family Tree restaurant in DeWitt (where else for a group of historians and genealogists??) Then it was on to the historical archives on Brook Road in DeWitt Township.



Archives Visit

Hosts Julie Peters and Myrna Van Epps provided an overview of all that the archives has to offer; from newspapers on microfilm, to a large collection of plat maps, to high school yearbooks, and so much more. And almost as importantly, they provided cookies!



Sue Hagerman points out artifacts

The final stop was the Bath School Museum, where Susan Hagerman gave a poignant presentation, assisted by Michelle Allen. The group was mesmerized by many of the intriguing artifacts on display there.

Meet the Volunteers

Pete and Roberta Motz

Pete and Roberta were born at Clinton Memorial Hospital 7 years apart. Pete went home to the family farm on French Road while Roberta went to the apartment that is currently the second floor of the Clinton County Historical Museum.



Pete and Roberta Motz

Peter graduated from RBW High School and later MSU in landscape architecture. Roberta graduated from Benet Academy and North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

The Motz's were on the museum board in the late 1980's. The next few decades found them busy raising 2 daughters and running a landscaping business. Roberta was the first social worker at Hazel Findlay Manor. She spent 6 years there as well as many years with St. Johns Schools in various capacities.

Pete has been on the St. Johns Parks and Recreation board for many years. Also, the St. Johns Cemetery Association board and the Knights of Columbus.

(**Museum Tour** continued)

Afterward, we stopped to take photos of the cupola from the school building that was bombed in 1927, which still stands in a park across the street from the museum.

The Clinton County Historical Society wishes to thank Clinton Area Transit, and the hosts from these three locations for helping to provide the tour group with a memorable day.

CCHS ARCHIVES

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

Microfilm Reader Purchased

The Archives has a new piece of equipment! When using the old microfilm reader and half of the screen went black, we knew it was time for a new (or new to us) reader. After confirming our machine was WAY TOO OLD for parts, there was no sense even placing a service call. So, the online search started and after a few phone calls I found a company that sells the same brand we are used to.

We went with a model that is two steps up from what we have, refurbished (so that made it cheaper than the one step up brand new one), and they saved us a bunch of money by telling me I could use the old film carriage. After 1 ½ hours on the phone with the set-up technician, we were up and running.

Where we used to have to pay $300 to have a roll of microfilm digitized, we can now do it ourselves! With more bells and whistles (I love those things!) we have made our life easier and more productive.

This is your donation and support at work. We thank you very much!

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We have been told the Clarke Historical Library is nearly finished with the digitization of the Elsie and Ovid newspaper microfilm project. We expect to be able to place these online for free viewing and searching in November.

Bath School Museum

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 100th anniversary of the disaster. Monetary contributions of any size are most welcome.

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CCHS MUSEUM

106 Maple St., St. Johns 48879
CCHistoricalMuseum.org

One easy way to help the Museum is to shop at Kroger. 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 thank those who are helping in this way!

Westphalia History Museum

120 West Main Street, Westphalia

This year's theme is *Our Farming Heritage*. The exhibit is the first of a series of three summer exhibits sharing the history of farming in the Westphalia area as well as its expansion into surrounding townships.



This year's exhibit concentrates on the land and buildings on which farming depends.

Remaining dates for this year's exhibits are:
Sunday, November 3 from 1-4 pm
Wednesday, November 20 from 5-8 pm

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 or the Archives.

