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

Volume 1 Issue 9 October 2024

Time Capsule & Carriage House Reopens

Mount Rest Cemetery Walk



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. See attached flyer for more information

County Resolution

On the morning of September 23rd a few CCHS Board members attended the Clinton County Board of Commissioners meeting to accept a resolution that was passed in recognition of the CCHS 50th anniversary year.

Kelly Jurman, museum director, shared information about the CCHS and our 50th anniversary year activities with the board and invited the commissioners to the dedication ceremony at the carriage house on Saturday, October 12th at 11 am.

Clinton County Trails

Clinton County Trails, our quarterly local history publication, is sent to all paid CCHS members.

Is there a story you would like to read in CC Trails? Request it or write it. Submit articles for consideration to ccgensoc@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

October 12—Time Capsule and Carriage House Rededication at 11 am

October 13—Mount Rest Cemetery Tour at 2 pm

November 2—CCHS Annual Meeting at 2 pm

Join us on October 12th at 11 am for the grand reopening and rededication of the Clinton County Historical Museum's carriage house. The museum is located at 106 Maple Street, St. Johns, with suggested parking in the courthouse lot.

The carriage house, constructed in the 1860's, has undergone major renovations this year with the exterior and first floor now complete and ready to reopen to the public.



We will also be sealing our time capsule compiled by Glenn Ernst. The time capsule gives a glimpse of our current time and will reside on display at the County Courthouse until being opened in 2074 on our 100th anniversary.

CCHS Annual Meeting

The CCHS Volunteer and Annual meeting potluck will take place on Saturday, November 2nd at the DeWitt Community Center gymnasium from 2:00-5:00 pm. The DeWitt Community Center is located at 16101 Brook Road, Lansing.

Folks are encouraged to bring a dish to pass and the CCHS will provide main meats, table service, and drinks. All members are invited and encouraged to join us!

One of the tasks at the annual meeting is to nominate and elect Board members and officers.

Nominated for an additional 3-year term is current president Lynne Gregory. There is an additional board vacancy for new 3-year term. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Board is invited to contact Lynne Gregory or Wayne Summers.. CCHS members may also nominate additional names at the annual meeting.

Please consider joining us as we celebrate our volunteers and look forward to the future of the CCHS.

DeWitt Cemetery Walk a Success

On September 12th Wayne Summers conducted DeWitt Cemetery walks with over 50 participants. The walks visited the graves and told the stories of a number of historically significant people buried in the cemetery.



Local History School Lessons

The CCHS has prepared lessons appropriate for teachers to use on the history of Clinton County from the First People through the 1900's. Also included are brief histories of each town.

Teachers are encouraged to download these free lessons from our website.

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. It includes displays of barn raisings with information on how they were built and aerial photos of area farms.

Remaining dates for this year's exhibits are:
Sunday, October 6 from 1-4 pm
Wednesday, October 16 from 5-8 pm
Sunday, November 3 from 1-4 pm
Wednesday, November 20 from 5-8 pm

Meet the Volunteers

Mike Morey



Mike Morey was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. After high school he attended Grand Rapids Community College and Oakland University, obtaining a degree in Criminal Justice. After working as a deputy with the Allegan County Sheriff's Office for two years in the late 1970's, he was hired by the Michigan State Police. He was a state trooper assigned to Pontiac, Detroit, and Lansing before becoming a detective sergeant at the Ionia post, where he retired in 2013 after 36 years in law enforcement. While on the job he met his wife Stephanie, and they now have four children and six grandchildren. He has been a resident of DeWitt since 1994.



In retirement Mike has kept busy traveling (including two trips to Europe), fishing, golfing, and serving as a volunteer at his church and at Sparrow Hospital. He has also been able to cultivate his hobby of drawing caricatures (see self "portrait" on right), and does several craft shows each year, including the Ashley Country Christmas for five weeks every December. Then each January, he and Stephanie escape the Michigan winters and spend six weeks on Hilton Head Island, SC.

It was while researching the history of his church, Redeemer Methodist, in 2022 and 2023 that Mike became familiar with the Clinton County Historical Archives. His avid interest in preserving history through its documents led him to become a volunteer there, and eventually, just this past May, a member of the Clinton County Historical Society board.

Historical Road Trips

Would you like to take a Clinton County history road trip? We have prepared 23 road trips which you can take to visit important Clinton County historical sites. There is a road trip for each township, DeWitt, and St. Johns,. There are also suggested color tours.

All 23 road trip routes can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

CCHS ARCHIVES

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

New Signage at Archives

When you walk into the Archives, it pays to look up! We now have category signs hanging from the ceiling to direct you to the appropriate area for your research. This is all thanks to Mike Morey. He saw a need, designed, ordered, and installed all 30 of them much to the pleasure of staff and researchers.

Thanks Mike! We appreciate you!



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.

LaRene Smith

The CCHS lost a good friend when LaRene (VanEpps) Smith died August 28, 2024. She was ever willing to cheerfully support her husband, Rowlan, in whatever he was pursuing on our behalf.

A gifted writer, she wrote her own obituary which can be read here.

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.

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. 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.

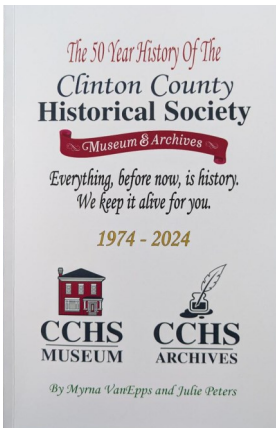
We thank those who are helping in this way!

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.



MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

August 2024

Meeting: September 11, 2024

We had 17 visitors in the month of August including some from as far away as CT & NC.

DIRECTORIES: County

- Directory; County, City, Village & twp Officials of Clinton Co. MI, 2019-2020

HISTORIES:

- Michigan Place Names; Walter Romig, 6 x 8 1/2"; hard cover; 673 pp
- Bath Remembered & Reflections of Bath; Gene Wilkins; 1991-1997; 3 ring binder [H 206]

MILITARY:

- Michigan at Gettysburg; Gift from Gov. Luce, 1891; hard cover; 7 1/4 x 9 1/2"; 176 pp [M 156]

NEWSPAPERS:

- The Community Herald; Bath; 1927-1936 [N 266]

NEWSPAPERS/MICROFILM:

- Clinton County News Jan-Jun 1978 Reel: 103
- Clinton County News July-Dec 1978 Reel: 104
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1979 Reel: 105
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1980 Reel: 106
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1981 Reel: 107
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1982 Reel: 108
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1983 Reel: 109
- Clinton County News Jan - Aug 1984 Reel: 110
- Clinton County News Sept - April 1984-85 Reel: 111
- Clinton County News May - Dec 1985 Reel: 112
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1986 Reel: 113
- Clinton County News Jan - Dec 1987 Reel 114

NAMES RESEARCHED:

Brya, Clavey, Ebert, Grover, Hopp, Irrer, Marten, Newman, Phinney, Scott, Welhusen, Wixom

SUBJECTS RESEARCHED:

Civil War in CC-SJ

Respectfully submitted:
Julie Peters, Director
CCHS Archives

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Join the CCHS in a

Historical Walk Around the

Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns, MI.

Sunday, October 13th at 2 PM. The ¾ mile tour will be guided by local historian, Alice Murphy. Find out about the pioneers of St. Johns, famous and infamous, who created our village.

Parking is available near the Quonset Huts across from the cemetery. Terrain may be uneven in spots so make sure you wear comfortable shoes and bring your water bottle. We will gather in front of the Mausoleum at 1:45 PM for the tour which begins at 2 PM.

No RSVP needed.

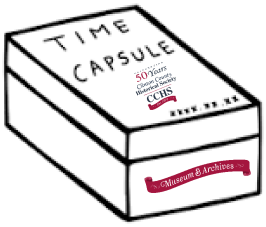
Rain date is October 20th at 2:00 PM

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Join The CCHS For Our 50th Anniversary Fall Celebration!

You, your friends and family are cordially invited to the Clinton County Historical Museum for the re-opening of our newly renovated Carriage House that was constructed in the 1860's.





We will also be dedicating a Time Capsule to be opened in 2074 showing life of our time. It will reside on display at the County Courthouse.

The Clinton County Historical Society will also acknowledge the recent Clinton County Board of Commissioners Resolution celebrating our 50 Year Anniversary.

Tours and refreshments will follow the ceremony.
When: Saturday, October 12th
Time: 11 a.m.
Where: 106 Maple St., St. Johns, MI

PLEASE NOTE: The Saturday St. Johns Farmers Market closes down Maple St. to automobile traffic until Noon. Parking is available in the Clinton County Courthouse lot.

No RSVP required. Rain date is October 19 at 11:00 a.m.