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

Volume 1 Issue 8 September 2024

Museums and Archive Tours

Fall Cemetery Walks



The CCHS and the Westphalia Historical Society are planning cemetery walks at the DeWitt Cemetery, Mount Rest, and St. Mary's 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. You can reserve the 10am walk here and the 6:45pm walk here.

The Westphalia Historical Society's annual St. Mary's Cemetery walk will be held from 2-4 pm on Sunday, September 15th. Their cemetery walks run on a circular route with each grave site a stop on the circuit. At each stop, a person (often a relative) will be dressed in period clothing and tell the story of the deceased.

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. See our October newsletter for details.

Upcoming Events

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

September 15—Westphalia St. Mary's Cemetery Walk 2-4 pm.

September 21 & 28 — Museums and Archive Tours
The CCHS will sponsor bus tours to visit our county's local museums & CCHS archive.

September 27—Episode 3 of *Forgotten* at Bath.

October 13—Mount Rest Cemetery Tour at 2pm.

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

Choose your itinerary:

North Loop— Ovid, Elsie, & St. Johns museums

South Loop—Westphalia, Bath museums & CCHS Archives

Choose your date or pick both on consecutive Saturdays.

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Saturday, September 28, 2024

All tours begin at the Community Church, 100 Maple Street, St. Johns. Ride in climate-controlled comfort provided by Clinton Area Transit Authority. Buses depart the church parking lot at 10 am sharp for all tours. We will stop for lunch halfway through each tour. (Lunch is not included in the ticket price.) The north loop tour ends at 2:45 pm and the south loop at 3:35 pm.

Tickets are $10 for each loop and are limited. We accept cash or checks (make out to CCHS 50 Year Fund). Contact Julie Peters at 989-501-0599 to arrange to pay and pick up your tickets. There are no refunds.

Museums on the North tour are not handicap accessible. No food is allowed on the buses. You may, however, bring water.

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.

Added this month are:

⇒ St. Johns City south and north

⇒ Dallas Township, Duplain Township, EssexTownship, and Westphalia Township road trips.

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

Mint Festival 2024 is in the Books!

CCHS was well represented during the St Johns Mint Festival weekend. The weather was perfect and so were our volunteers!



We were front and center at the Mint Festival Parade marking our 50th anniversary while repping the year 1974 with our vehicle and costumed parade participants who handed out 150 bags of mint candies carefully packaged by CCHS volunteers. Not to mention the awesome Michigan Wheelmen who put on a high-wheeled bicycle show for all to see.



At our vendor booth in the City Park, we handed out 500 gift bags filled with CCHS information and Hanover mints to adults and children alike from Friday afternoon through Sunday evening. We chatted with dozens of folks and even scored some new volunteers!



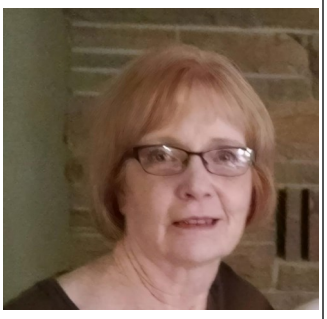
Mike Morey, our artist in residence scored a personal best with 78 caricature drawings that raised money for the 50-year fund.

We hosted nearly 40 people who toured the Museum campus on Saturday and Sunday. Many of those people were first timers to the Museum.

We want to acknowledge all of those who made the weekend possible: Alice and Pete Murphy, Emma Cribley, Becky Hiers and her daughter Brooke, Chuck (his car) and Julie Peters, Mike Morey, Gayla Phillips, Elmer and Jan Upton, Karen Kusenda, Glenn and Karen Ernst, Debra Cox, Judy Hubler, Kathy Bates and Kelly Jurman. We could not have done it without all of you!

Meet the Volunteers

Karen Kusenda



Karen Kusenda has been a volunteer and board member since 2019 after a 45-year career in Interior Design.

She is the daughter of John and Catherine Rumbaugh who were very instrumental in the museum's restoration in 1978/79, as well as the directors until Catherine's retirement in 2011.

Because of the family history with the Museum and Historical Society, it seemed like a natural fit to become involved in preserving the structure and updating displays and décor. "After my retirement I hoped I could make a difference in the life of the museum that might help it live on for another 100 years."

Her degree from MSU, and background included space planning, architectural and decorative arts history, and color psychology, Karen's experience in construction and remodeling has helped facilitate many changes to the museum building inside and outside.

Karen and her husband Dan have lived in St. Johns since 1977. They have one daughter, Allison, who lives in Ann Arbor with her husband and their 12-year-old son, Cooper. The family has been involved in many different musical endeavors in the community and church.

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, September 1 from 1-4 pm
Wednesday, September 18 from 5-8 pm
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

CCHS ARCHIVES

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

Scrapbooks

Over the years, the scrapbook collection at the Archives has grown to over 100 books, some of which contain items from the 1800s. Most include obituaries, wedding news, school achievements, and other family information but often unusual items can be found. Several are full of WWII news about Clinton Co. military personnel. Scrapbooks of various organizations, like the Child Study Club, are among the acquisitions.

Many of these scrapbooks have been indexed. Any serious genealogist or historian would do well to investigate these one-of-a-kind resources.

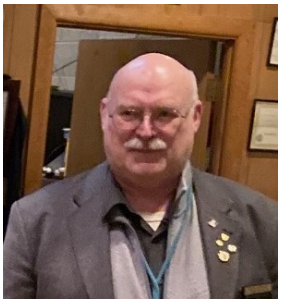
Enduring Farm Database

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.

CCHS Board Vacancy



Glenn Ernst, who has served on the CCHS Board since Dec. 2021, submitted his resignation in July. He has been a thoughtful and industrious member. In particular, he served on the oral history committee, arranging and sharing in some interviews.

He also contributed much time and effort on CCHS 50th anniversary activities, especially on the Enduring Farmers event. His special project was obtaining and filling a time capsule to be placed in the courthouse at the end of 2024. Thank you, Glenn, for all your contributions.

Anyone interested in serving on our Board is invited to contact Lynne Gregory or Wayne Summers.

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.

Episode 3 of the documentary on the Bath School Disaster, *Forgotten*, will be shown Sept 27, 7-9 pm, at Bath Elementary School. Tickets can be purchased on their website for $15.

Contacts:
Bath School Museum;
Attn: Bldg. Fund
PO Box 246; Bath, MI 48808
www.bathschoolmuseum.org

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.

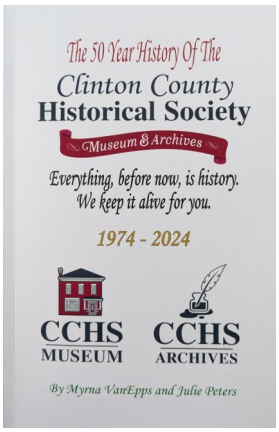
Krogercommunityrewards.com

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.

CCHS ARCHIVES

MONTHLY REPORT OF ACQUISITIONS & RESEARCH

MAY – JULY 2024

We had 21 visitors from May through July. Considering the Archives was all torn up with the remodel and moving around, we handled it pretty well. We are now settled and it looks amazing. We are in the process of adding new directional signs and area signs up to aid in finding what people want to look at. So many people lent a hand in this major overhaul and I want to thank them… Casey Eiseler, Rex Ferguson, Cindy Kindel, Mike Morey, Pete & Alice Murphy, Chuck Peters, Corey Smith, Rowlan Smith, Chad Stevens, and Myrna VanEpps. I appreciate you all!

The 50 Year Enduring Farmers of Clinton County event was a success. We did gain at least 3 new members.

CEMETERIES:

- Plan of Hurd Cemetery by Clarence Hurd; 18 x 26"; waxy type paper

CHURCHES:

- 1965-1967 directory for the First United Methodist Church of St Johns, tan in color [CH 334-C].
- 1973 directory for the First United Methodist Church of St Johns, tan in color [CH 334-E].

GOVERNMENT:

- "Government of Michigan", by H. R. Pattengill, published in 1895, 5 x 7 inches, brown in color.
- Olive Township "Highway Record Book," brown in color, containing descriptions of roads from 1838 through 1925. [GOV 141A]
- Olive Township ledger, brown in color, titled "Town Record #2" containing Beast Marks, Treasurer records, and mortgage records from 1842 through 1888. [GOV 141B]
- Olive Township "Treasurers Account Book," containing payment records for numerous categories, during the time frame of 1887 through 1896. [GOV 141C]
- Olive Township "Bonds and Oaths" book, containing bond records from 1949 through 1971, and oaths of office from 1949 through 2002. [GOV 141D]
- Olive Township "Treasurers Account Book," containing payment records for various categories, from 1936 through 1955. [GOV 141E]
- Olive Township "Treasurers Account Book," containing payment records for various categories, from 1955 through 1966. [GOV 141F]
- Olive Township "Chattel Mortgage" book, containing mortgage records from 1883 through 1896. [GOV 141G].
- Olive Township book of meeting minutes, burgundy and black in color, containing township board meeting minutes from 1993 through 2002. [GOV 141H]
- 1927 Olive Township Tax Roll book, tan in color, 14 x 17. [T 497-A]
- 1928-1950 Olive Township Tax Roll book, black and brown in color, 14 x 17. [T 497 B-X]
- 1982 Olive Township Tax Roll book, black in color, 15 x 18. [T 499-A]
- 1994 Olive Township Tax Roll book, black in color, 15 x 18. [T 499-B]

HISTORIES:

- National Greenback Meeting poster 1874; 12 x 18"; green paper
- The 50 Year History of the Clinton County Historical Society; 2024; 5 1/2 x 8 1/2"; by Mryna VanEpps & Julie Peters [H 243]
- Collection of various group pictures in the RN ca 1947-49; "Back Through the Years"; black 3 ring binder [H 249]

LAND RECORDS:

- Farm Sale Bills, Clinton County; 1908-1909 [LR-124]

PHOTOS:

- Camp Custer ca 1940's; 22 x 5 1/2"; color
- X-78: Handrawn picture of Sugar Bowl by Mr. Ballantine; 17 x 22"; b/w
- Downtown DeWitt 1943 ca; Pete Griswold Ford; Fire Dept; Reed's Grocery Store; Percy Carris Drug Store; Dalman Hardware (r to l); 17 x 11"; color
- Walling Farm on W. Kinley Rd., St. Johns; 16 x 19 1/2" touched color
- 1930 RBW High School Band; 10 1/2 x 14"; b/w; C. F. Bensinger, Dorward Vaughn, Ray Stevens, Merle Redman, Gaylord Stephan, Ken Munger, Wendell Brubaker, Leo Corkin, Carl Light, John Luecht, John Caudy, Don Emmons, Bud Rand, Dempsey Ebert, Max Hunter, Frederick Bunday, Ned Kelly, Bob Marshall, Dale Anderson, Dick Hoover and Fred Bigelow, director. [S-X 278]
- ca 1920's Boy Scouts in front of the Congregational Church. 11 x 13 1/2"; b/w
- 1931 RBW St. Johns High School basketball team; 13 1/2 x 11 1/2"; b/w
- ca 1930's RBW Football Players
- ca 1931 RBW Football Players
- ca 1932 RBW Football Players

PLAT BOOK:

- 1915 Standard Atlas of Clinton County, black and burgundy in color, 15 x 18. [PB 103]

SCHOOLS:

- 1963 Elsie High School yearbook, the "Elsonian," gold in color. [S 302]
- 1964 Elsie High School yearbook, the "Elsonian," white in color. [S 303]
- 1965 Elsie High School yearbook, the "Elsonian," white in color. [S 304]
- 1966 Elsie High School yearbook, the "Elsonian," black in color. [S 305]
- 1967 Ovid - Elsie Area High School yearbook, "Legend," blue in color. [S 281-D]
- 1968 Ovid - Elsie Area High School yearbook, "Legend," tan in color. [S 281-E]
- RBW "The Wilsonian" newspaper; 1931-32
- Olive Township School Record book, 1842 through 1915, brown in color. [S 429]
- Collection of School Pictures from Back Through The Years; 1947-49 [S 137]

Respectfully submitted:
Julie Peters, Director
CCHS Archives