

MISSION STATEMENT

The Clarkston Community Historical Society has been created in order to bring together those people interested in the history of our community and area; and, as far as is possible, to collect and preserve such things that are of historic interest, and may collect, care for, and make these items available for scholars, students and the public to use in researching the history of our area.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year! Thank you to those of you who were able to donate your time during *Art in the Village* last fall. The show generated \$18,118 in net income and, as you know, is our main fundraiser. The income is used to operate the Clarkston Heritage Museum and provide community and school programming. We are quite pleased to report, that despite the economy, this show placed among the top five of our most successful shows. This could not happen without YOU!

The *Thomson House*, as of this writing, has been shown to more than 70 prospects and last week the Society received an offer that the Board accepted! We have reason to feel positive that this offer will result in a sale. Keep your fingers crossed. This offer is a result of the dedicated efforts of **Pam Ford Morgan**, *Morgan & Milzow Realtors*, who we retained last October. Pam understands the responsibility the Society feels to **Barb Thomson's** legacy and the community, and has diligently worked to showcase this beautiful home and price it competitively in today's market. Pam is providing her services as a donation by waiving her commission. We cannot thank Pam enough for her generosity. Other good news is that CCHS was granted the status of "property tax exempt" by the State on this property for the year 2009. This is a huge help for the small 501c3 that we are ... maintaining a home, even an empty one, comes with high bills in these Michigan winter months. I would be remiss if I did not thank several others who have been extremely helpful during the process of trying to sell this house: **Neil Wallace**, **Jon and Toni Smith** and **Bart Clark**, as well as all of the CCHS Board. In fact, I would like to formally welcome our newest additions to the Board, **Alma Goldner** and **Kelly Crawford**.

Please take the time, if you haven't already, to tour the latest museum exhibit, *The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker*: CLARKSTON MERCHANTS, SHOPKEEPERS & TRADESMEN. This intriguing display will be available until Spring. Also, don't miss our favorite *HistoryTeller*, **Maureen Esther**, on Thursday, March 5 for an evening of tales from the life of Abe Lincoln.

It might just be February, but we are already in the application process for Art in the Village. If you know an artist who might be a potential exhibitor at the show, have them visit our website, www.clarkstonhistorical.org, for application materials. Entry deadline is March 15, 2009.

Please be sure to read the enclosed letter about Membership. We are revamping the process for renewing each year. Thank you, thank you for your continued support of the Society and commitment to the preservation of our great community.

J. E. Arkwright
Jennifer E. Arkwright

BOARD MEMBERS

- Jennifer Arkwright**, *President* 248.922.3757
- Debbie DeVault**, *Vice-President* 248.625.0153
- Jonathan Smith**, *Treasurer* 248.625.8624
- James Schultz**, *Secretary* 248.625.3122
- Bart Clark** 248.922.0406
- Kelly Crawford**, *Publicity Chair* 248.625.6624
- Alma Goldner** 248.625.4654
- Kim Huttenlocher**, *Education Chair* 248.625.2499
- Glenida Olafson** 248.394.1180
- Toni Smith**, *Museum Director* 248.625.8624
- Lydia Strnad**, *Newsletter* 248.922.0019

EXCERPT FROM 'LOST IN THE MUSEUM; BURIED TREASURES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL' BY NANCY MOSES

A 2006 report by Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services found that America's 30,000 collecting institutions hold 4.8 billion books, journals, and newspapers; 189 million scientific specimens; 153 million photographs; 13.5 million historic objects and 4.7 million works of art. Most museums display only about 10% of their holdings (A.K.A. "the stuff"). Though not alive, the stuff is voracious and collecting institutions can spend more time, energy, and money caring for the mountains of stuff that nobody sees than they spend on public exhibits.



Thank you to CCHS members **John and Freda Meyland** for sharing their photography skills with us and for taking photos at our request. John has a great wide angle lens that has allowed him to take wonderful photos of the 2008 Art in the Village, the current museum exhibit (for uploading on our website), as well as tromping through the snow to take some additional photos of the Thomson house. It has been so nice to just call them when we needed something and we want to thank them again for their support of the CCHS. Your photos always make us look wonderful!

CLARKSTON
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
& HERITAGE
MUSEUM
6495 CLARKSTON ROAD
CLARKSTON, MI 48346



A few of our most recent items purchased for the museum collection.

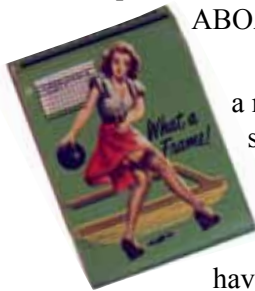
FOLD-OUT STYLE CARDBOARD FAN WITH ADVERTISING THAT READS . . .

'Keep Cool at the Dixie Spot Drive-In, an air-conditioned Lunch Room serving Sandwiches, Hot Dogs and a Complete Fountain Service. Located at U.S. 10 and M-15.'

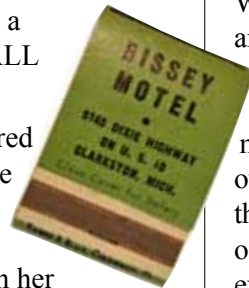


Judging from the patriotic artwork that includes the Statue of Liberty, airplanes and an eagle, along with the words 'United We Stand, Freedom and Justice For All,' this fan was most likely produced during WWII.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM EMPLOYEE TRIP PASSES. These four passes are dated 1910, 1911 and 1913. They were all issued to the train brakeman, A.C. Smith for the Clarkston to Detroit run. Some even include his wife as an additional passenger. Apparently, working on the railroad got you a free pass to ride the train with your family. Did someone yell: "ALL ABOARD!"



MATCHBOOK IS HOT STUFF! We also recently acquired a matchbook with some great graphics on it. On one side it reads 'Bissey Motel, 9740 Dixie Highway, Clarkston' and on the other is a color drawing of a 1940s era pin-up girl with a bowling ball in her hand and the words 'What a frame!' We're happy to have found it and we think it is a perfect score!



WHITE OPAQUE GLASS BASKET WITH HANDLE. This little basket has a handle trimmed in gold and the words 'Souvenir of Clarkston, Mich.' across the front. It would have been purchased in a store like the Howe Brother's Dry Goods store during the late 1800s.

Photograph of opaque glass basket is on the back page.



MUSEUM HOSTS PRIVATE TOUR

In October of 2008 the Museum hosted a private tour for almost 30 Waterford seniors. They arrived by bus and spent about an hour touring the museum and getting the inside scoop from **Museum Director, Toni Smith**. Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and was impressed by all the displays. Many wanted to see the office and were surprised by our large collection. It was a fun outing for them and a good opportunity for us to share what we have with a neighboring community.



The CCHS Board of Directors is pleased to report that we have received a community outreach grant from the *Lula C. Wilson Trust Fund*. We requested the amount of \$1,500 to pay for the replacement of our broken computer touch screen that once sat in the corner of the museum. We were awarded the entire amount and have purchased the necessary equipment to place a flat screen computer in an upper corner of the museum. This flat screen will continuously run a powerpoint presentation that will cover many different aspects of the CCHS. From past programs and exhibits to how you can get involved today, this program will make everyone who stops by the museum aware of who we are and what we are all about.

We want to express our appreciation to the executors of the Lula C. Wilson Trust Fund for this wonderful support. As well, we also wish to thank **CCHS Director Bart Clark** for submitting the grant and making it all possible. We are currently working on the presentation program for the new system and hope to have it up and running very soon. We promise that it will be fun to watch and should capture the interest of our museum visitors.



Next time you search for something or make a purchase on the Internet, you can find some extra cash for the CCHS!

The GoodSearch Internet search engine (www.goodsearch.com) and the GoodShop shopping mall (www.goodshop.com) uses Yahoo technology to share a slice of an estimated \$8 billion in advertising revenue with 73,000 registered charities, including the CCHS.

Internet search engines make money by selling ads. Advertisers are charged according to the number of visitors and ad click-throughs, so more visitors translates to more money. GoodSearch, which shares half of its revenues with charities, pays one cent per visit, so make sure you ask your friends, neighbors and relatives to make GoodSearch their search engine of choice and designate CCHS as the recipient charity. That way, the pennies will add up to dollars more quickly.

Using GoodSearch is easy: On your first visit to goodsearch.com, fill in "Clarkston Community Historical Society" where it asks you to name a designated charity and click the yellow "Verify" button. Then, on the line above CCHS, type in your search words.

We tested GoodSearch and found it as intuitive and effective as Google and if you use the same computer to execute searches, GoodSearch should "remember" your choice. You can also make GoodSearch your home page.

In 2007, GoodSearch was expanded to include GoodShop, an online shopping mall of world-class merchants. Each purchase made from the GoodShop mall will result in a donation of 3 to 20 percent of the sale. So give it a try and thanks for the support!

Oral History Project Gets Underway Again!

Several years ago the members of the CCHS had the foresight to start recording oral histories from some of Clarkston's longtime residents. These interviews were conducted using a cassette recorder and tape, the only way available at the time. So we were very happy to be contacted by **Lynn Simmons**, a new resident in the Clarkston area and an answer to our prayers. Lynn is a retired court reporter and past president of the *Michigan Oral History Association*. She has conducted classes in oral history and is an expert in transcribing exactly these kinds of tapes.

Lynn came into the CCHS office to see what we had, and has very graciously offered to transcribe our tapes for us. This would make them so much more accessible and is the best way to keep these interviews safe for the future. Of course, like any project that has sat for several years and was conducted by someone else, we are trying to piece together what we have and where we stand. We have found that

about half the tapes do not seem to have signed consent forms with them. Which brings us to our request. In order for these tapes to be transcribed and used in the museum collection, we must have consent forms from either the interviewee or a relative (in the case of someone who has since passed away). We are hoping that by listing the names here, our membership can notify us if you have a contact for any of the people listed. These interviews are a wonderful resource and we want to do what is best here. Please take a moment to look over the list and let us know if you can help, we would really appreciate it.

Jean Clark Rosborough
Gladus Jones Porritt
Bill Kelly
Tom Boothby
Mary Gulick Soulbly
Belle Walter McIntyre
Edson Leonard
Ralph & Eleanor Thayer

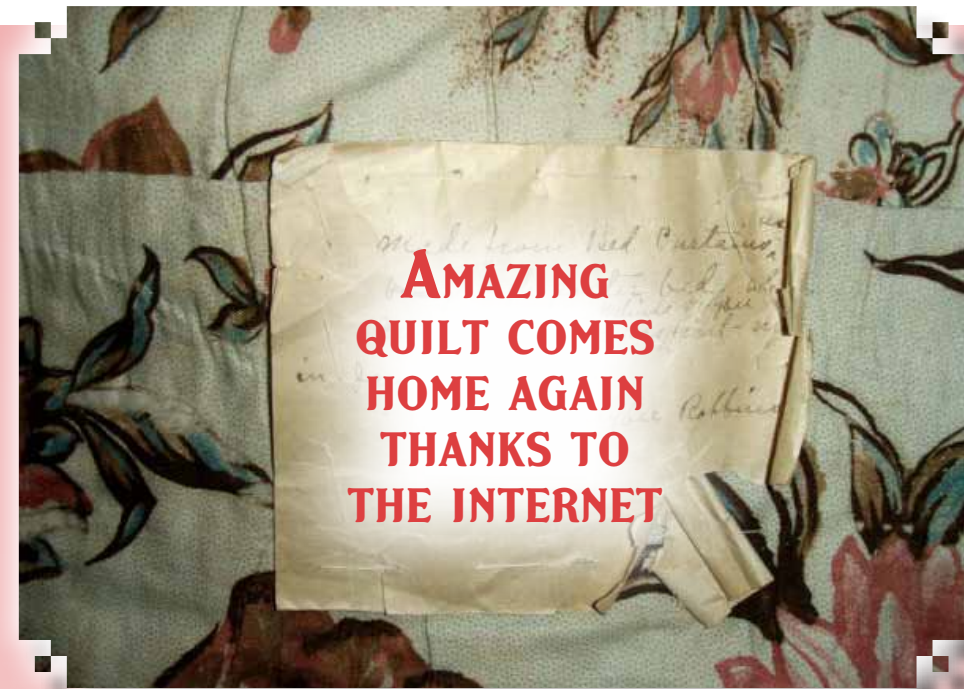
FYI - CCHS WORKS WITH OCHR (AKA: Oakland County Historical Resources) AND WE COULD USE YOU!

In 2003 a consortium of libraries and historical societies used grant money to establish *Oakland County Historical Resources*. This is a way to provide these groups with an avenue to digitize selected documents from their collections and make them available via the internet. Besides the obvious opportunity to make these items available for researchers, it also helps minimize the wear and tear that can occur when individuals ask to look through and handle old records.

The Heritage Museum is hoping to provide some of our early records on this website. We have scanned our first document, a ledger book of member-

ship, marriages, and baptisms from the 1870s that belongs to the *Clarkston United Methodist Church*.

The scanning takes place at the *Orion Library* (Clarkston Rd. and Joslyn Rd.) about once every other month. It is a pretty simple procedure and we are looking for volunteers who might be interested in doing this for us. Right now, we are just hoping to get some idea of those willing to offer some time. Then we will set up the training. Give us a call if you would be interested. If you would like to go on the website and check it out go to www.oaklandcountyhistory.org. Thanks and BFN (bye for now).



I am often surprised at the journey some items make before they come through the doors of the museum, and on this occasion, the internet played a pivotal part in the story.

It all began a few months ago when we received an email at the CCHS office from **Jared Austin**, a gentleman in New York City. As the story goes, his grandmother (now deceased) owned a quilt shop in Roseburg, Oregon and was also a known collector of antique quilts. One day, an elderly gentleman came into the shop and offered to sell her a quilt. Although she loved collecting quilts she could never understand why someone would not keep their family quilts and she asked the man if there wasn't a family member who might want it. He replied that no one was interested and so she agreed to the purchase. The full panel quilt was the oldest one in her collection and she was always very curious about its history. But it wasn't until the quilt became the possession of her grandson, Jared, that part of that history was revealed. The quilt held an unusual clue to its past because sewn onto the fabric was a handwritten paper that read: "*Made from bed curtains used for high poster bed when my grandmother, Melinda Maybee, was first married in Jan 1st, 1829. - S. Alena Maybee Robbins.*" Jared took this information and began searching the names on ancestry.com where he was able to trace the Maybee family here to Clarkston. As well, the bride's maiden name was Melinda Beardslee and the Beardslee family were also among Clarkston's early settlers.

Jared was interested in selling the quilt and so he contacted the CCHS. He took some photos of the quilt and the identifying note and sent them to me. I took them to **Charlotte Maybee** (a direct family descendant) and she immediately authenticated the note and the quilt. Then Charlotte graciously agreed to pay half the cost of the quilt so that the CCHS could make the purchase for the museum. The deal was struck and a few weeks later the quilt arrived.

As a side note, the money we used to purchase this wonderful quilt (\$500.00 total) was earned at the Antique Sale during Art in the Village. So when we ask you to donate an item or two for the sale, you can feel good knowing that this is exactly the kind of purchase that will be made possible with the Antique Sale profits.

So, it was a long and unusual road but the quilt is now part of the museum collection where it belongs. We are grateful to Jared (and his grandmother), as well as to Charlotte Maybee for helping to bring this quilt home. We couldn't be happier.

It Takes A Village.

CCHS Joins Forces to Preserve Clarkston's History

The CCHS has recently started working with other groups within the community who also hold items of a historic nature. We are offering them the opportunity to place their objects in an open loan with the museum in an effort to see that they are properly cared for. Two examples of this are the *Clarkston Mason's* and the *Clarkston United Methodist Church*.

From the Mason's we have received an album from the mid 1800s that holds priceless photographs of many of Clarkston's first settlers, most of whom were members of the Masonic Temple located at Main and E. Washington. Recognizing the value of this item to the community, the Mason's have graciously allowed us to keep it here where we can offer the best in fire suppression, climate control and security.



William Holcomb

We have also worked out an agreement with the Clarkston Methodist Church to hold some of their earliest record books for them. These books contain entries from the 1860s that register the marriages and baptisms of Clarkston's first families.

If you know of any other organizations that might have something that needs to be safeguarded, please let us know. Or ask them to contact the society at 248.922.0270. This is also true for family items of importance to the Clarkston community.



got bail?

There are many different record books in the collection of the Heritage Museum and some are definitely more interesting than others. For example, we have three mid-to-late 1800s *Oakland County Jail* record books that are very interesting to read.

We thought you might enjoy a sampling of just what types of offenses were common back then. Of course, the names have been slightly altered just in case; we wouldn't want to jeopardize the reputation of great grandpa or great grandma in at least one case!

NAME	SEX	AGE	SOCIAL CONDITION	RESIDENCE	JOB	READ/ WRITE	HABITS	OFFENSE
W. Potter	M	50	Married	Canada	Carpenter	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Disorderly
J. Begortise	M	35	Married	Oxford	Clerk	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Drunk
P. Callgary	M	31	Married	Detroit	Laborer	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Vagrancy
W. Davis	M	40	Married	New Hudson	Salesman	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Selling Liquor to Minors
W. Montgomery	M	50	Married	Pontiac	Laborer	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Larceny
J. Earlee	M	30	Single	Shrayfield	Laborer	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Arson
H. Marley	M	21	Single	Ohio	Farmer	Yes/Yes	Temperate	False Pretense
H. Blackmore	M	29	Single	Royal Oak	Farmer	Yes/Yes	Temperate	Murder
M. Soury	M	29	Single	Nowhere	Laborer	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Disorderly
G. Conroy	M	36	Single	Boston	Sailor	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Vagrancy
W. Evers	M	38	Married	Clarkston	Barber	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Larceny
W. Vansley	M	19	Single	Oxford	Barber	Yes/Yes	Temperate	Bastardy
H. Deaver	M	21	Single	Orion	Laborer	Yes/Yes	Intemperate	Threats
S. Suter	F	50	Married	Pontiac	Laborer	No/No	Intemperate	Drunk



Oakland County Jail Record Book

FRIENDS OF THE INDEPENDENT TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

SPRING BOOK SALE

April 1 through April 4

Wednesday - Saturday
Members ONLY Preview Night is
Tuesday, March 31

248.625.2212 • www.indelib.org

A. Lincoln

AN EVENING WITH
Maureen Esther
HISTORYTELLER
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009



The Clarkston Community Historical Society is sponsoring a very special evening to commemorate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, our nation's 16th president.

Popular local HistoryTeller **Maureen Esther** will present her unique and engaging lecture on Lincoln – considered by many historians to be our most important president – on Thursday, March 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road.

While most Americans know Lincoln as the Illinois-born president who served during the Civil War and opposed slavery, “few people realize the depth of his influence and his accomplishments under extraordinary circumstances,” said Esther. “His humble beginnings, his ethic of hard work and his simple manner would endear him to almost all.”

Of course, Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 at Ford's Theater in Washington, just days after the end of the bloody Civil War that consumed his presidency. He was the first of four U.S. presidents slain while in office.

Esther promises to bring “stories you may have heard and others you may not have heard.”

The program, three weeks after Lincoln's actual Feb. 12 birthday, is designed to appeal to adults and school children alike. Admission for CCHS members is free; admission for all others is \$1 at the door. Refreshments will be served.

“This program continues our mission to bring history to life for the members of our community,” said CCHS President Jennifer Arkwright.

For additional information on this special evening, please call the CCHS office at 248.922.0270.

Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln . . . some unusual facts about our 16th President

ABRAM LINCOLN'S mother Nancy died from 'milk sickness' in 1818 when Abraham was only nine years old. Milk sickness was caused by the consumption of milk contaminated by the toxin Tremetol. This toxin is found in the White Snakeroot plant. Cows would often graze on the White Snakeroot

plant passing the toxin to humans. Milk sickness killed thousands of settlers in the 18th and 19th centuries. In many cases over half the population of a community died.

- John Wilkes Booth's older brother saved the life of Abraham Lincoln's son Robert! In a strange coincidence, Edwin Booth around 1863 or 1864 in Jersey City, NJ saved Robert Lincoln's life. A crowd of people were waiting for a sleeping car late at night when Robert was pressed against the train. When the train began to move he lost his footing and fell into the space between the train

and the platform. Edwin Booth quickly pulled him to safety. Edwin Booth was considered the finest actor of his generation and was very well known. Historians doubt Robert Lincoln ever told his parents of this incident.

- Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard and he was the tallest president at a towering height of six feet and four inches.
- During the Civil War (1860-64), Lincoln made frequent visits to the Soldiers Home each summer. Once he piled his son Tad and two pet goats into a carriage. A shocked presidential aide politely suggested that the goats should not ride in the carriage with the president and his son. Lincoln answered, “Why not? There's plenty of room in here.” So the goats stayed, and the aide was left behind.
- He was the first president to be photographed at his inauguration. John Wilkes Booth (his assassin) can be seen standing close to Lincoln in the picture.
- Ford's Theater was shut down for many years after the assassination. The Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton, had the building completely gutted. The Record and Pension Bureau moved in. On June 9th, 1893, overloaded with too much weight from tons of documents, files, and equipment, the theater's floors buckled and collapsed, crushing and killing twenty-two clerks and injuring sixty-eight.
- The clutter in Lincoln's law office was notorious, and a continual source of irritation to his partner, William Herndon. On his desk, Lincoln kept one envelope marked “When you can't find it anywhere else, look into this.”



CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSHES TO CLARKSTON

The holidays are usually a time of giving, but in the months before Christmas the museum received an extraordinary donation from **Roxanne Starbuck** of Bakersfield, California.

Roxanne is a descendant of George King whose family lived in a large home on Holcomb Road that still remains. Today, most of the surrounding land is occupied by the Bridge Valley subdivision.

George King was only 9 years old when he moved here in 1844, and he would live out the rest of his life in Clarkston until he died of pneumonia in 1892. To say the least, George was a very active member in the community. Besides running the large family farm (the property went all the way back to Deer Lake), George also taught school here, wrote about village events for the Pontiac Gazette and was the town postmaster. At the same time, he married Henrietta Stout and raised a family of four children while keeping a daily diary for many years.

After first contacting the CCHS via email, Roxanne started shipping boxes full of Clarkston treasures to the museum. We can't tell you what an unbelievable joy it was to open each box and find so many wonderful artifacts from the King family. Below, we have listed just some of the numerous items she sent so you can also see what an amazing gift this was. We will always be grateful to Roxanne for not only deciding to part with these items, but also for taking the time and effort to pack everything up and ship it to Michigan. We can honestly say that Christmas came early to the museum this year!

Photograph of Katheryn Norene King b.1904

- ☞ 1919 Scrapbook of Katheryn Norene King
- ☞ Early Clarkston High School report cards
- ☞ Letters and homemade cards including a 1912 handwritten letter and WWI Correspondence
- ☞ Wedding registry of John King (George's son) to Roxy Tucker in 1899
- ☞ Monogrammed silverware and child's dresser set
- ☞ Early paper dolls
- ☞ Autograph album of John King, 1884-1915
- ☞ Sewing items belonging to Roxy Tucker King



- ☞ Wonderful white child's coat with elaborate lace collar and sleeves
- ☞ Lace cuffs, baby shoes, and clothing, c.1900
- ☞ Assorted family photos and portraits, including an original of a previously unidentified photo of Roxy King and other Clarkston women in a sewing circle, c. 1900