



C o l u m n s

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News about the Clarkston Community Historical Society activities, exhibitions, people & plans for CCHS members.

**From the Desk of the President**

**T**hank you to CCHS members, old and new, for your support by attending the Storyteller program in February and the Village Players benefit in March. Both events were highly attended, educational and much fun, too! (See separate articles)

A committee is currently working on the Cemetery Walk which will be held Saturday, May 17, 2003. This will be a unique and interesting event for our community. There is more information about this event inside the newsletter.

Our Annual Meeting will be held this year on Tuesday, May 27, 2003 at 7 p.m. We will provide members who attend with an Annual Report, we will conduct elections for the 2003-4 slate of officers and board members and we plan on directing a discussion on the future of acquiring items/documents from the community for the Clarkston Heritage Museum. We need your input on how we can communicate to Clarkston's residents the importance of preserving the artifacts that are tucked in an attic, stashed in a basement or stowed in a garage only to be thrown out at the next spring cleaning. These items are crucial to preserving Clarkston's history and we want residents to readily know that if they don't want them, we do! The meeting will be held at the Independence Township Library.

Planning for the Crafts & Cider Festival is well underway. Thank you to our *Exhibitor Chairperson*, **Kim Huttenlocher**, for her efforts lining up the artists for the fall event, September 20 & 21, 2003. We promise quality art, scrumptious goodies from our local community groups, the traditional donut and cider fall treat, Clarkston merchandise, and entertainment. It will be the second year for our silent auction, which was a huge success last fall. Mark your calendars!

At this writing, spring hasn't "sprung" yet so it is my hope that when you read this, Clarkston will be enjoying the fresh breath of spring, the tree limbs will have been swept away and our hearts will be full of peace and a new beginning for all. ☒

**Jennifer Arkwright**  
CCHS President

**Civil War Storyteller Captivates Audience**

**O**n Monday, February 10, CCHS members and other Clarkston resident's were treated to an hour and a half "story" told by storyteller, **Maureen Esther Latimer Passalacqua**. Maureen took us on a journey back to the days of the Civil War using photography and fascinating storytelling. Her stories weaved around a young boy's experience in the Civil War who was from Michigan and was the longest living civil war veteran. Maureen's knowledge, sincerity and humor captivated the audience of more than 60 adults and children who were also treated with homemade bake goods provided by the CCHS Board.

Many members were curious about when Maureen would be coming back! She is scheduled to join us on October 14 in the same location, the Independence Township Library Community Room, at 7 p.m. This time she will be talking about *Great Women in History*. She will entertain us with stories of some of history's most interesting women from King Tut's wife, Ankhesenamun, to Henry the VIII's wives. Be sure to mark your calendars.

This program is free the CCHS members and \$1 for nonmembers. ☒



Photo by Lytita Sirmad

Someone at CCHS sets a nice table! If you missed *Run For Your Wife* by the Clarkston Village Players, you missed an entertaining night out!

## Museum Collection Continues To Grow



It is always great to report the newest additions to our collection. Here is a recent listing.

From **Ron Rayner** we received a Farm Journal he found in the home he once owned at 9260 Pine Knob Road. This hardcover book, printed in 1919, has chapters on such activities as how to keep your fence posts from rotting and how to build a better chicken coop. The interesting thing about it is that in the front, there is a printed listing of all the residents on R.F.D. Routes in Clarkston. Each name includes the number of acres they own, how many buildings they have, whether they own or rent, how many cows and horses they own and the names of their wives and children (in that order!). This is a wonderful resource and great fun to read. Thanks to Ron for passing it on to us.

A recent donation from antique dealer, **Robert Silvis**, is a paper program from the Clarkston High School Senior Play of 1947. The play was titled "Seven Sisters" and written by Edith Ellis. Many of the performers are familiar names to us now. Mitzi was played by Ida Beattie, Liza was played by Marian Emery and Ruth Davies was Terka. This is a great piece of Clarkston history and we want to thank Bob. He is always keeping

a professional eye out for Clarkston related items and when he finds something he purchases it for us. You may remember that his last donation was a large collection of personal papers from Colonial Sydney Waldon!

Once again we find ourselves thanking **Dr. Thomas Stone** for a postcard donation. Dr. Stone has donated almost a dozen different postcards in the last few years. Each postcard is a wonderful photo view and these are often our best forms of early photographs. Dr. Stone is another CCHS member who keeps us in mind when he visits antique stores. He does the legwork and we reap the benefits!

We have also purchased a few postcards by way of ebay. The most unusual of these has a photo of the building most often identified as the Caribou Inn. Although it was also known as the Demarest House, Nelson House and New Wooster in earlier times, this photo clearly shows a sign that reads "Clarkston House". This is a name we hadn't been aware of. Does anyone know more about the time period this could have been taken? Give us a call if you do. ☒

This postcard recently purchased on ebay has a wonderful photograph of two men in a horse drawn wagon on South Main Street. Circa 1880



## Recent Contributions To Gifts In Memory & Gifts In Honor

A perfect way to honor or remember a loved one is to donate to the Clarkston Community Historical Society in his or her name. Contributions are recorded and the honoree can be notified if you wish. The following gifts have been received since our last newsletter.

*In Honor of  
Dr. Thomas Stone*

*In Memory of  
Evelyn Davies Hungerford*

*In Honor of  
Kim Huttenlocher*

*In Memory of  
Charles and Mary Ellis*

There is also the opportunity to purchase larger items for the Museum (such as display cases) that would be identified by a small plaque with the honoree's name. If you are interested in this program you can pick up donation envelopes in the Clarkston Heritage Museum, or call the CCHS office at 248-922-0270 for more information. ☒

### BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Jennifer Arkwright</b> <i>President</i> (248) 922-3757	<b>Laura Covintree</b> (248) 922-0406
<b>Lydia Strnad</b> <i>Vice-President</i> (248) 922-0019	<b>Debbie DeVault</b> (248) 625-0153
<b>Jonathan Smith</b> <i>Treasurer</i> (248) 625-8624	<b>Frank Latimer</b> (248) 922-0769
<b>Kim Huttenlocher</b> <i>Secretary</i> (248) 625-2499	<b>Jo Macek</b> (248) 394-1205
<b>Toni Smith</b> <i>Museum Director</i> 248) 625-8624	<b>Ann Mizusawa</b> (248) 625-1505
	<b>Amy Wilson</b> (248) 625-0583

## Lakeview Cemetery Tour: A Stroll Thru History

**W** We are very excited about a new event taking place on Saturday, May 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Clarkston Community Historical Society will be offering a unique and interesting tour at *Lakeview Cemetery*. There will be seven actors posted at various gravesites throughout the cemetery. Each actor will portray a different character from Clarkston's history. As you walk along in your group, you will stop and hear a short speech about the life and times of that individual, as well as interesting facts about Clarkston and the cemetery itself. When you have visited all seven sites, you can stop by the tent for light refreshments and a chance to listen to American patriotic and folk songs. Shuttle service will be provided to and from Depot Park. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, and \$5 for students. Children four and under are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased by calling the CCHS office at 922-0270 or at the *Clarkston Country Store* located at 21 N. Main Street.

The seven characters that will be portrayed in the Cemetery Stroll are as follows: Dr. Charles Gray Robertson, George W. King, Butler Holcomb, Jeremiah Clark, Sr., Martha Vliet and husband and wife team - Mary & Theodore Phillips. We have included an excerpt from the script of Dr. Charles Robertson in order to pique your interest! ☞

### DR. CHARLES GRAY ROBERTSON

By the time I came to Clarkston in 1880, I felt as if I had been moving about the whole of my life. When I was just a boy of six years, I came to America's shores from my native Scotland. With my mother Violet and father George and four brothers and sisters, I made the trip across the ocean and then on from New York to the territory of Michigan. It was 1836, and Michigan was not yet even a state.

We settled in White Lake, and dad and the rest of us began the rough work of surviving on the frontier. I'm sure dad thought that this life would be better than the one we had in Scotland. Already I had lost six brothers and sisters to disease before we came to America. But only a year after we settled here, dad caught pneumonia and died, leaving mother and we children to

make it on our own. If it weren't for my older brothers, things might not have worked out so well. But George Jr. opened a store in Waterford, and Andrew was a lawyer and even a senator after Michigan earned its statehood, and they helped us along the way.

STAY TUNED FOR THE CONCLUSION AND MUCH MORE ON SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2003!

# CLARKSTON CEMETERY WALK

## A STROLL THRU HISTORY

FEATURING DRAMATIC VIGNETTES OF CLARKSTON'S  
EARLIEST SETTLERS.

LEARN ABOUT CLARKSTON'S HERITAGE FROM A  
UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE.

*The heart symbolizes Love & Devotion.*



PRESENTED BY THE  
CLARKSTON COMMUNITY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 17, 2003  
SATURDAY

LAKEVIEW CEMETERY

7PM TO 8:30PM

\$10 ADULTS  
\$5 STUDENTS  
4 AND UNDER FREE

Tombstone Art  
&  
Symbols



ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED



*The snake symbolizes Eternity.*

CALL THE CLARKSTON  
HERITAGE MUSEUM AT  
(248) 922-0270  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

PARKING IN DEPOT PARK ONLY.  
SHUTTLE SERVICE PROVIDED TO CEMETERY.  
RAIN OR SHINE. SORRY NO REFUNDS.

## Web Site Update

**A** After several months of work, the CCHS web site has finally received a much-needed facelift. It has been a few years since we've updated our website and there were many new items to add. Besides the usual changes and corrections, we also revamped the Children's section and the Merchandise pages. As well, you can now see an overview of all the Museum exhibits from our first to the most current. There is updated Craft & Cider information and artists can now

print out an application for a booth if they wish. We made many cosmetic changes including larger, better quality photos and an easier to read format for our online newsletter. We want to thank our web site developer, **Paul Chambers** of Core 3 Solutions for being so great to work with. Thanks also to CCHS members **Kim Huttenlocher**, **Lydia Strnad** and **Toni Smith** for heading up this project. If you want to see the new changes for yourself, check us out at [www.clarkstonhistorical.org](http://www.clarkstonhistorical.org). ☞



Photo by Lydia Strnad

## Village Players Benefit Held For CCHS

**C** CCHS members and friends couldn't stop laughing at the March 12 benefit performance of the comedy, *Run For Your Wife*, performed by the Clarkston Village Players. For the second year in a row, the Village Players surprised us with their humor, excellent acting skills and wonderfully crafted set. The event was nearly sold out with at least 75 in attendance on the rainy Wednesday evening. Theater goers enjoyed wine, fruits and cheeses, desserts and a 50/50 raffle and prize raffle in addition to the fine performance and good company. Proceeds from this event benefit the Clarkston Heritage Museum. ☞

**Toni Smith, Kim Huttenlocher and Jennifer Arkwright** enjoy a night out at the theater.



**CLARKSTON  
COMMUNITY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
P. O. B o x 2 6 1  
Clarkston, MI 48347

### BOARD MEETINGS

*are held the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7 PM until 9 PM at the Clarkston Heritage Museum located in the Independence Township Library. 8:30 to 9:00 PM is held open for all membership.*

**website: <http://www.clarkstonhistorical.org>**