

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**

Our 28th Annual Crafts & Cider Festival was another hit this past September! The brisk fall weekend brought thousands to our city who enjoyed shopping, eating and listening to music. We featured over 100 artists/crafters, over 10 cuisine choices and five bands. This festival marked our most successful yet bringing in over \$17,000 in profit. These profits will be used for the Clarkston Heritage Museum exhibits and operation, creation and implementation of our children's programming and other historical society business and programs. The 1st annual Silent Auction was a new feature of the festival. Over 78 items donated by the artists were auctioned with almost 30% sold above their estimated value, raising about \$2,000 for CCHS. Thank you to CCHS member **Rene Weaver-Wright** for chairing the auction and seeing it through to its successful end! At the close of each festival the CCHS Board meets to discuss improvements and changes for the next year and we welcome your comments and suggestions. Just email us at [questions@clarkstonhistorical.org](mailto:questions@clarkstonhistorical.org).

The Annual Christmas Caroling party was truly a treat this year at the Clarkston Conservatory of Music. Since the water project construction prevented us from having the party at **Sharron Catallo's** lovely home, we'd like to extend our gratitude and warmest thanks to *Conservatory Director*, **Richard Wilhelmesen**, who opened the doors of his charming historic building to CCHS at almost a

moment's notice. Mr. Wilhelmesen was spectacular at the piano along with **Miriam Moore** who directed CCHS members in song, "ho, ho, ho's" and various hand-held instruments. The intimate atmosphere proved to be a wonderful holiday setting.

We have three programs coming up before summer. Next month, the Civil WarStoryteller, **Maureen Esther Latimer Passalacqua**, will provide a fascinating and informative look at American history in the 1860s. Ms. Passalacqua uses photography to show the people, places and times that would change this country forever. Join us Monday, February 10 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Library. CCHS members are admitted free and non-members pay \$1 at the door. The evening includes dessert and coffee.

On March 12, we will once again host a Clarkston Village Players performance. *Run for Your Wife* is a comedy and sure to be lots of fun. In fact, the Clarkston Village Players confided to me that the CCHS audience last year was their best! The evening will include wine and hors d'oeuvres along with a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$18 per person and can be obtained by contacting a board member or calling the office. Get your tickets early, as the theatre only seats 84 people!

We are working, under the lead of *Chair & CCHS Board Member*, **Laura Covintree**, on bringing to Clarkston a Cemetery Walk. Cemeteries hold not only the memories of our loved ones, they also hold stories

of great triumphs, loss, love and war. On May 17, 2003, join CCHS for a cemetery walk through the past at Lakeview Cemetery. We are hoping to feature the Clarkston Village Players who will perform several vignettes of Clarkston's most influential and interesting residents. The evening will include the walk, patriotic entertainment and light refreshments. Look for more information to come.

If you haven't yet had a chance, visit the new exhibit at the Clarkston Heritage Museum. *Windows in Time: A View Through Clarkston History*. The CCHS Board thanks CCHS *Museum Director*, **Toni Smith**, who put in many, many hours just before the holidays to install this new exhibit. Lifetime members also may want to stop in the museum as the benefactor plaque is in place publicly thanking you for your support! Thanks to CCHS *Board Member*, **Ann Mizusawa** for handling this project.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all CCHS members for your past support and hope you will be able to take advantage of the many upcoming programs: the Civil War Storyteller in February, the Clarkston Village Players *Run for Your Wife* performance in March and the Cemetery Walk in May along with visiting and telling your friends about the Clarkston Heritage Museum. ☞

*Happy New Year!*

**Jennifer Arkwright**  
CCHS President

## Museum Donations

The winter weather and holiday celebrations have naturally slowed down the donations that usually come into the Museum. But we still have some great items to report. Here is a list of the most recent donations made since our last newsletter.

From **Gini Schultz** we received a program for the "President's Birthday Ball" sponsored by Independence Township in the High School Auditorium on January 29, 1942. This is a really interesting item since it has lots of information such as a listing of the program highlights as well as all those who were on various committees. Names familiar to many of us: Setterlin, Beattie, O'Dell, Mann, Jones, Winn, Clark, Soulby, Walter, Ronk, Addis, Terry, Fuller, Beach, Robinson, Holcomb & Ogden to name a few! Then there is the listing of all the contributors & prizes, this really takes us back a few years. Prizes included: A door prize of \$8.00 in Defense Stamps, a bottle of shampoo from Demond Barber Shop, oil change from Beattie Motor Sales, 1 quart of wine from the Clarkston Café, 1 ton of coal from the Clarkston Coal Company and several prizes for \$1.00 in trade from local merchants. This was a great addition to the collection and we want to thank Gini for thinking of us.

From longtime supporter **Barb Thomson** came several wonderful items including a deck of Whist playing cards and an extraordinary set of paper dolls. Dated from 1802 and made entirely by hand, no doll is taller than 1" high and the clothes are all from that same period. A tiny, handmade leather trunk is included for storing the dolls and clothes. How this fragile collection survived over 200 years is almost impossible to fathom. If you are interested in seeing this wonderful item, it is currently on display in our new exhibit. Be sure to stop and see them since they are obviously one-of-a-kind. Thank you Barb for this fantastic gift,

many generations of children will delight in seeing this (very) old-fashioned toy!

Some of the items purchased on EBay lately include a post card dated 1945 with a photo of Bee Memorial Lodge once located on Crooked Lake. The lodge was a very large log building with two chimneys and a wide front porch. Crooked Lake is now located within Independence Oaks Park off of Sashabaw Road north of Clarkston Road. Other postcards include an early photo of the gravel and sand pit operation and a road view of the Deer Lake Inn. ☒

**Toni Smith, Museum Director**

## CLARKSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXPO REPORT

This year, the historical society decided to participate in the Chamber of Commerce Business Expo held at the Clarkston High School. We already had a credit with the Chamber and so we were able to get our booth space at no additional cost. We thought it would be a great opportunity to get our information out into the community.

**Jennifer Arkwright, Lydia Strnad** and **Toni Smith** passed out brochures along with a free postcard (photo of Main Street in early 1900s) and an old-fashioned candy stick. We gave out approximately 400 brochures and spent the entire evening talking with individuals who stopped at our booth to see the large murals we had on display. All in all, we felt it was a successful way to personally contact residents who may not know much about the society and what we do. This is also a great way to let people know that we are continually looking for Clarkston related items to add to our collection since many people are unaware that the museum is always happy to accept donations. We also included information for businesses that detailed our financial sponsorship program. Since the Expo is heavily attended we felt we were successful in reaching many of the local residents and hope to see the results in the months to come. ☒

**Toni Smith, Museum Director**

## New Plaque Displayed in Museum

After a long wait, we have finally completed the commemorative plaque that lists all the Lifetime Members of the Clarkston Community Historical Society. Made of mahogany and brass, the plaque is an attractive addition to the Museum. Each lifetime member has his/her name engraved on a small plate which is placed on the face of the plaque. Currently there are 51 names with room for many new additions. So, if you are a lifetime member, stop by and check out your name. If not, please consider supporting the society in this way. Information on Lifetime Membership can be obtained by calling the society at (248) 922-0270 or stop by the Museum and pick up a brochure. ☒

## Financial Donations

We would also like to thank **Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hurlbert** for their recent financial donation to the Historical Society. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Another financial donation came from **Mari Ann Secrest** in memory of her late husband, **Jerry Staley**. We are honored that she thought of us and will strive to use her donation in a manner that will benefit all the goals of the Society. Thank you Mari Ann. ☒

**Toni Smith, Museum Director**

## 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

## Windows In Time: A View Through Clarkston History

Just before the holidays began in December, we were able to install the newest exhibit in our Clarkston Heritage Museum. This wonderful exhibit is based on a "slice of life" theme where each display case represents a different view of Clarkston life as well as an individual who represents that same aspect. The large window in the front of the Museum is *A Farmhouse Window* with items from the everyday life of a local farmwife and farmer. Photos of the Stott family farm and the Morgan barn raising serve as the backdrop of this vignette. Once inside the museum, the cases represented are as follows:

*Through The Doctor's Window* addresses the daily life of the town doctor and features the story of Dr. Charles Gray Robertson. *A Window Into Communication* talks about the importance of our rural mail carriers and features carriers William Rockwell and Elmer Vliet. *A Political Window* showcases the small town election and highlights the many civic activities of George King, postmaster, election official, school board director, newspaper columnist and farmer. *A Storefront Window* highlights the Addis family and their business; Addis's Soda Fountain which stood for many years at the corner of Main & Washington

for position  
photo

Streets. Also included in this exhibit are *A Window Into Childhood* and *A Window Into Clarkston Society*. We are very excited about this latest effort and hope you will plan to stop by at your next opportunity. This is a truly wonderful service that we offer to the community and as a historical society member, you should be proud as well. ✉

**Toni Smith, Museum Director**

## Native American Dioramas On Loan To North Sashabaw Elementary

In September of 2002, the historical society board of directors began discussing the idea of placing the four Native American Dioramas in a local elementary school for several reasons. First, we wanted to offer the many schoolchildren who may not use the library a chance to see these wonderful displays. Secondly, after two years in the Museum, we were ready to move them away for a year or two in order to keep the Museum exhibits fresh, as well as to gain back the space the dioramas required. As a result, in

October we were able to come to an agreement with North Sashabaw Elementary School to display the dioramas in their newly renovated Media Center for the length of the school year. Media Director **Lori Kokones** was very excited about the dioramas and couldn't wait to incorporate them into the programs and research of the school-children. The move was facilitated by the school maintenance crew and went without a hitch. The new home for the dioramas is a great spot and we hope that with this success, we might place them in another of Clarkston's schools next fall. This is a great way to reach surrounding areas with this wonderful display, as well as successfully getting our name and mission out into the community. ✉

**Toni Smith, Museum Director**

for position  
photo

Our Native American dioramas in the newly renovated Media Center at North Sashabaw Elementary School.

## Can You Help Us?

We would like to take a minute to remind everyone that the historical society is always looking to add to our collection. Do you have old photos or items that relate to Clarkston or the surrounding area? We are also looking for paper items or even any research you may have done on a local family or house. Sometimes people don't realize that they have something that we would like. From vintage milk or medicine bottles to any item associated with our town. If you have a photo that you don't want to give up, we would be happy to pay the cost of copying it. Give us a call at the office at (248) 922-0270. Since we are a 501 C 3 charity, items can often be used as a tax deduction. So please, consider making a donation, your item will be cared for and cherished for generations to come and remember, if we are to continue to create these wonderful exhibits we have to have the collection to draw from! Thank you for your consideration.

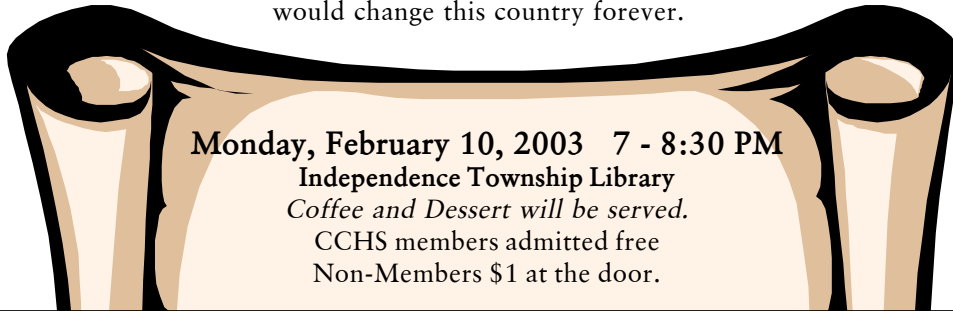
# Look what's happening at CCHS!



Join us for a fascinating and informative look at American history in the 1860s.

**Maureen Esther Latimer Passalacqua**, an Art/History Storyteller for ten years, takes us

on a journey back to the days of the Civil War. From Abraham Lincoln to the "littlest soldier of them all" she covers the time in our history that split this nation in two. Highlights include a Union drummer boy's life and the Michigan 22nd Infantry Regiment. Ms. Passalacqua uses photography to show the people, places and times that would change this country forever.



**Monday, February 10, 2003 7 - 8:30 PM**  
Independence Township Library  
*Coffee and Dessert will be served.*  
CCHS members admitted free  
Non-Members \$1 at the door.

Clarkston  
Community  
Historical Society  
*presents*

THE  
CLARKSTON VILLAGE  
PLAYERS



**March 12, 2003**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**7:00 PM HORS D' OEUVRE**  
**7:30 PM CURTAIN**  
**\$18.00**

*Call the CCHS office at  
248-922-0270 for  
tickets.*



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>