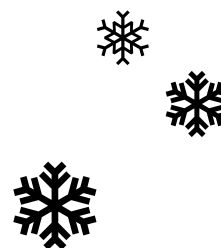


C o l u m n s

P. O. B o x 2 6 1 C l a r k s t o n, M I 4 8 3 4 7 2 4 8 . 9 2 2 . 0 2 7 0



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

**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.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Jennifer Arkwright**  
*President*  
(248) 922-3757
  - Lydia Strnad**  
*Vice-President*  
(248) 922-0019
  - Jonathan Smith**  
*Treasurer*  
(248) 625-8624
  - Kim Huttenlocher**  
*Secretary*  
(248) 625-2499
  - Laura Covintree**  
(248) 922-0406
  - Debbie DeVault**  
(248) 625-0153
  - Frank Latimer**  
(248) 922-0769
  - Ann Mizusawa**  
(248) 625-1505
  - Jim Schultz**  
(248) 625-3122
  - Amy Wilson**  
(248) 625-0583
- 
- Toni Smith**  
*Museum Director*  
(248) 625-8624

**From The Desk Of The President**

Jennifer Arkwright

**H**appy New Year CCHS members!!! 2003 was good to us and hopefully more good things are in store for 2004. Please visit *The Clarkston Heritage Museum*, if you haven't already, to browse the seventh and newest exhibit, *Clarkston Collections: Gathering Our Past* which features the many artifacts in the CCHS general collection. The exhibit takes the viewer through the process of what it is we collect, how we acquire these items and why they are important. From local and out-of-state donors to purchases made by the society through the internet, there is a little bit of everything in this display and it covers a wide range of times and purposes.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual *Crafts & Cider Festival* was a huge hit this year thanks to volunteers (and shoppers) like you!!! A new record for revenues was set this year, totaling about \$20,000. Thank you, again, to our membership for keeping this event running year after year! You will notice a small change late next summer when the society begins to promote the 30<sup>th</sup> annual event. The name of the festival will change and become *Art in the Village*. The final decision to change the name came after months of input, research and discussion. The Board feels the name alone will attract additional quality artists for participation in the years ahead.

Storyteller **Maureen Esther Latimer Passalacqua** once again entertained and educated an audience of CCHS members and the general public during her October program about *Women in History*. This was a second visit by Maureen and we will continue to invite her back to Clarkston to mesmerize us with her storytelling ways and historic tales.

This month the CCHS applied for a *Museums for America Grant* from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The society is very fortunate to have **Laura Covintree** on our Board of Directors. Laura is employed at *St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center* where she plans special events, handles corporate donations, writes grants and provides donor recognition. At the beginning of the month she completed and submitted the several hundred page grant application. Please join us in keeping our fingers crossed that our request will be funded!! Put simply, the grant provides funds that help with the operating expense of the museum. We appreciate the time Laura put in prior to and during the holidays to take this step for CCHS.

January marks the month when CCHS looks to add new members to the society. Although we are 150 families strong, we always welcome new members who are interested in supporting Clarkston's rich history. Remember, a gift of a CCHS membership is a unique and thoughtful way to welcome a new neighbor or community member. They even make a nice teacher's gift.

Next on the program agenda is the CCHS 3<sup>rd</sup> annual sponsored benefit performance of the Clarkston Village Players. Please mark your calendars for March 17, don your green attire for the occasion, and enjoy *Trophies*, a drama involving the relationship between a father and his two sons. Tickets are \$18 per person and include wine, dessert, fruits and cheeses. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Depot Theatre located on White Lake Rd. in Clarkston. To purchase tickets, please call 922-0270 (they must be purchased in advance). Consider the evening a date night,

From the Desk of the President continued on page 5.

## Museum Wish List Shortens Thanks To Recent Donations

Toni Smith

In our fall newsletter we printed a wish list of items needed for the Clarkston Heritage Museum. I am pleased to say that thanks to the generosity of some of our CCHS members, we have made a real dent in our list since then. First of all, we now have a museum certified mannequin with which to display clothing in our collection. This item was purchased in honor of Stella J. Stevens, and we think it was especially suitable because

she has been a seamstress all her life. What a great fit this was and we are so thankful to have the mannequin. It has several great features and is approved for contact with antique clothing. Stop by the museum and look for it in our current display.

Another wish list item was an additional display case, and now we are working on it! The funding for this new case was provided in memory of Gray & Lucille Robertson and will be a

very welcome addition to the museum. We are currently meeting with the design shop that was responsible for all our other cases and hope to have a case purchased in time for our next exhibit in May.

We are very grateful to those individuals who have supported us in this way. We hope that these new items will honor their loved ones by continuing to enhance the professional quality of our museum exhibits for many years to come. ✉

## Our Museum Wish List

### Items:

1. We always use museum quality supplies, to properly care for artifacts. We use acid free boxes and they range in price from \$5 to \$50.
2. Reference books are a wonderful resource; right now we need one on clothing styles of the 1900s. Most books cost from \$30 to \$75.
3. We provide history programs to hundreds of schoolchildren each year. We've created a Clarkston history/activity book as a handout but quantities are running low. Reprints are \$1.00 each.
4. We are always looking to purchase Clarkston artifacts. It would be wonderful to increase our artifact budget. If we can't buy it when we see it, it is gone forever.

## From Colonel Waldon To Henry Ford; Pine Knob Mansion Has A Prestigious History

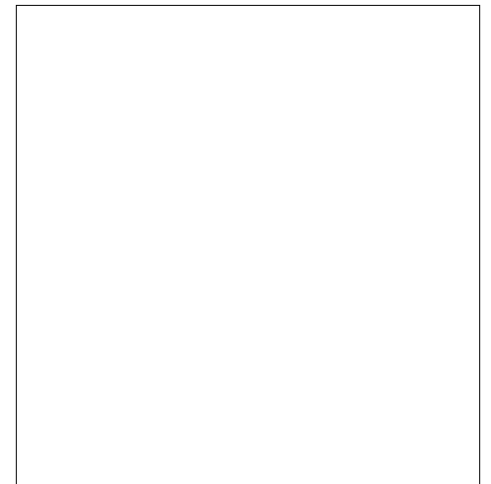
Toni Smith

A recent donation by CCHS member **Charlotte Maybee** provided us with information on a surprising chapter in the history of the Pine Knob Mansion. The mansion was originally built in the late 1920s for Col. Sidney Waldon and his wife, Helen. They owned the home until 1947; in 1948 it was opened as a division of Henry Ford Hospital. A small pamphlet from that time advertises this facility as "a place for patients who need continued treatment but do not require the complete facilities of the hospital." It goes on to explain, "The atmosphere of Pine Knob is one of informality and relaxation. Bring casual clothes and include a good pair of walking shoes, so that when you are able to take exercise you can enjoy the

woods and surroundings. Facilities are available for shuffleboard, table tennis, fishing, boating, hiking, miniature golf, badminton, coquet, darts, checkers, chess, card playing and arts and crafts."

There were accommodations for 23 patients and a staff of 18 included a supervisor, four registered nurses, two occupational therapists, one physical therapist, three cooks, a waitress, two maids and four maintenance men. A staff physician visited daily. One of the nurses was longtime Clarkston resident Frances Stewart. She is seen in several of the photos, wearing a crisp white uniform and cap, dispensing medicine to patients sitting comfortably in the library. We thought this was such an interesting bit of information, and what a surprising twist

of fate that such a luxurious mansion should go from a private home to a country hospital. ✉



Frances Stewart and an unidentified patient at the *Henry Ford Hospital* once located in *Pine Knob Mansion*.

Pieces of the Past continued from previous page.

identified, the fact that almost all of these people are named makes this even more amazing. These images are truly remarkable and this album will be a treasured gift to the museum for future generations.

The most recent addition to our collection came from long time Clarkston resident **Tom Bullen**. He was kind enough to donate several great photos and tintypes. They included a wonderful sepia tone photo of a group of people sitting on the porch of 8 E. Washington. One of the gentlemen in this photo is Francis Follett, the great-great grandfather of Sally Stageman Bullen (Tom's wife). What I find really remarkable about this photo is that at first, we had no idea where the house was located in town. Both Tom and I looked at the photo but to no avail. Then, suddenly we realized that down in the corner of the front porch step was a small, homemade sign that identified the house as the home of F. Yeager and the date of April 12, 1895! How incredible that these people had the foresight to make this sign and place it in the picture. After that, it was easy to identify the house by its owner at that time, so our detective work was complete!

Other great photos donated by Tom include a tintype of Francis Follett with his wife and daughter in front of their home at 67 Buffalo around 1888, as well as photos of downtown Clarkston, Vliets-on-the-hill and finally a photo of an elderly Francis Follett proudly standing in front of the monument at Gettysburg wearing his Civil War medals. All of these images are astonishing and are a marvelous addition to our Museum collection. We are certainly grateful to Tom and Sally for their generosity.

That about wraps up the museum donations received since our last newsletter, as you can see, it has been a busy time. We have also continued to purchase items whenever we can. There have been several new postcards purchased on eBay. The most interesting shows the East side of North Main street when there were wood buildings where the Masonic Temple is now. This would most likely have been around 1910 since the Temple was built in 1916. And speaking of the Masonic Temple, another recent purchase was a silver coin about the size of a silver dollar. It is dated 1916 and has symbols of the Masons on one side and a perfect likeness of the Masonic building at Main and Washington on the other side. Perhaps it was to commemorate the new building? As always, I am often surprised at what can be found on the internet. Another recent purchase was an autograph book that belonged to Clarkston resident Minnie Farrell in 1876. It is full of wonderful inscriptions from local residents and is a treat to read.

So there you have it, all the newest donations to our Clarkston Heritage Museum. We are thrilled that the word is getting out there and that people trust us with their treasures. Each one is important to us and we will always treat them with the care and respect they deserve. ☼

From the Desk of the President continued from the front page.

a girls night out, or a group outing. The evening ends with a 50/50 raffle and prize drawing. This fun and entertaining benefit performance supports CCHS and The Clarkston Heritage Museum. Don't wait until the last minute to purchase your tickets. The theatre only seats 85!

Again, keep the positive thoughts flowing regarding the grant, and I hope to see you at *Trophies* on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Stay warm ... ☼

## Clarkston Community Historical Society Presents The Clarkston Village Players In

# TROPHIES



**March 17  
Wednesday**

**\$18.00**

*Includes Wine & Hors d'Oeuvre*

**Depot Theater**

**7 PM** Hors d'Oeuvre

**7:30 PM** Curtain

*A family is forced to come to grips with their failures and differences after a brain injury strikes their youngest son and leaves him unable to fulfill his father's wishes of becoming an athlete. As the remaining children return home for an Easter visit, resentments and disappointments finally come to the surface.*

**To purchase tickets, please send your check payable to the C.C.H.S**

P.O. Box 261

Clarkston, MI 48347

Call (248) 922-0270 with questions.

## We're Looking For A Few Good (DEAD) People!

Toni Smith

**M**any of you may remember our first annual Cemetery Walk last May. Held in Lakeview Cemetery, it was set up so that small groups were guided through the cemetery, stopping at several gravesites to hear an actor in costume tell a short history about the life of that citizen. It was a remarkable event and we had a very positive response from everyone who attended. In fact we had hoped to sell around 40 tickets and in truth sold over 150! We are starting to plan for this year's event and have some of the "locals" that will be represented, but are looking for other suggestions, as well. Do you have a long departed relative buried at Lakeside? It can be someone of any age from 15 and up, and it is best if there are family stories or histories about that person. Was your great grandfather the Clarkston village blacksmith? Or did your great, great aunt have to shoot a bear while hanging out the wash at a local farm? We would love to hear any suggestions you might have, so give us a call at (248) 922-0270 and help us make this year's reenactment a "walk in the park" or should I say cemetery?! ☒

## Do You Have The Right Stuff?

Toni Smith

**W**e 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. We are always concerned that as our senior generation moves on to warmer climates, often things are thrown out that would find a better home with us. If you are ever in the situation where you are cleaning out or moving a local home, please don't hesitate to toss anything of even questionable interest in a box and let us do the sorting. You might be surprised at what we would be happy with! 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 gift 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. ☒

## The Clarkston Heritage Museum Needs YOU!

Toni Smith

**I** am busy planning the next museum exhibit for the spring and I could really use some help. I am hoping to explore the role Clarkston and its residents had in the Civil War as well as WWI and WWII. From veteran's of the Civil War who settled in Clarkston to the Service Mother's Club that sent care packages to the hometown boys in WWII. Although I already have some information, artifacts and uniforms, I am still looking for other items that might be of local interest. These would be loaned to the museum for the duration of the exhibit (about six months). Please call me at the museum (922-0270) if you have anything you think might fit the theme. Or even if you just have information that might be helpful, I would certainly appreciate it. ☒

## PROJECT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- ✿ Early Resident Research
- ✿ Barn Research
- ✿ Cemetery Research
- ✿ Oral History Collection

These projects can be completed at the volunteer's own pace. Please contact the CCHS office at (248) 922-0270 for more information.  
*Ask for Toni, mention this ad!*



## Pieces Of The Past . . . Our Newest Donations

Toni Smith

**S**ince our last newsletter in September, there have been many great donations made to the Heritage Museum. Read on to discover what new treasures we have recently acquired!

From **Patricia Steele** came a wonderful collection of Beardsley family items. It included two pair of antique wire rim eyeglasses with cases from an optometrist in Pontiac, a teaching certificate and receipt for teacher fees paid by Ina Warner in 1892, and an amazing memory book that belonged to Helen Beardsley in 1916. These are all great items and we thank Patricia for entrusting them to our care.

From our long time supporter, **Charlotte Maybee** came a variety of wonderful items. Several pieces from when the Pine Knob mansion was used as a hospital (for more on this, see the article in this newsletter). Also included in this collection was a history of Sashabaw United Presbyterian Church on Maybee Road and a personal account by Ellen Miller of her time working at Green Acres Inn from 1929 through 1931. One of the best items Charlotte donated was a personal record book started by her mother, Vera Miller in 1913. It is so much fun to read her expense account as a young girl, every nickel spent on an ice cream cone was precisely recorded!

I have always said that items for the museum don't all have to be 100-year-old antiques. Sometimes it's the little things that tell the bigger story. This was the case when local resident **Marilyn Hanson** stopped by the museum to donate a large collection of local advertising items. Most of them were "giveaways" once handed out by long gone businesses. There were items from Clarkston Appliance, Pontiac State Bank, King's Insurance, Somethin's Cooking, Howe's Lanes and Berg Cleaners. I especially like the cardboard sign from Berg Cleaners, you put it in your window at home and they knew that meant you had dry cleaning to be picked up. I could sure use this service now! It is amazing to think of all the businesses that have come and gone in our little town. Other items brought in by Marilyn were a handmade cloth casserole carrier used by Elizabeth Lambert and also some of the Lambert's stationery.

Even though we have a constantly expanding collection at the Museum, we have never had any antique dolls. But now, thanks to **Cynthia Reid**, we have a wonderful example of an early porcelain face, jointed body, doll. She is in great shape and came in her original clothing. Her trousseau included shoes and socks, a beautiful batiste dress, pantalets and 5 cotton slippers with embroidered bodices.



And for those cold Victorian nights, a green velvet coat with a hat trimmed in fur. I would like to try to date her using the stamp at the base of her neck, does anyone know a doll expert? The reference books have thousands of dolls and I need someone with the knowledge of what to look for in order to date her. In the meantime, she is wonderful to have and we thank Cynthia for letting this beautiful doll "move in" with us!

Another interesting item we recently received came from **Doris Storer**, now of Zephyrhills, Florida. It is a scrapbook made by village resident Muriel Boyns during World War II. You may have already read about this since it was the subject of my Clarkston Eccentric article in December. If not, then let me tell you about this wonderful collection of newspaper clippings, tickets, advertising and miscellaneous items saved by this young woman while her future husband, Roy Spencer, Jr. was in the army. It is full of local interest, since anytime there was mention of a Clarkston young man or woman in the newspaper, she saved it. There are also letters from servicemen thanking the local homefront mother's club for the care packages they sent. Since I plan to make our next Museum exhibit about Clarkston during the wars, from Civil to WW II, this is a timely addition to our collection. Thank you to Doris for providing us with this fantastic piece of local history.



From **Violet Waid** came a lifetime collection of handmade lace and tatting samples, along with quilt squares, vintage threads and supplies. These items were all handmade by two Clarkston women, Mrs. Maurice Day and Dorothy Louise Hartman. These dozens and dozens of different samples were all handmade by the woman and must represent many years of intricate work. It is impossible to fathom how much time must have been spent to create this collection, not to mention the incredible talent it took to do the work. Certainly this is a lost art and this collection will always represent a different time and place for women in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Once again I find myself thanking longtime donor **Virginia Walter** for another great item. This time it was an absolutely incredible gift of a family album. Filled with over 50 tintypes, names such as Addis, Petty, Lynabury, Morgan and Strubble are represented here. There are wonderful images of children and family groups, as well as several prominent local citizens. Since all too often I find myself in possession of photos that have not been

Pieces of Past continued on next page.

# Thank You For Your Support!

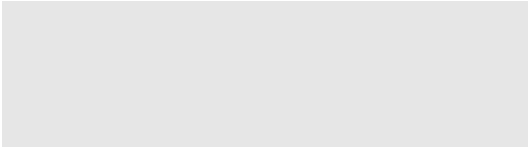
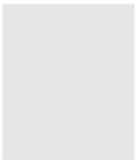
Lydia Strnad

**A**re you looking for some wonderful gifts that celebrate our rich history? Then look no further than downtown Clarkston!

For a number of years *The Union General* and the *Clarkston Country Store* have been nice enough to carry many of the items we offer and we'd like to say **THANK YOU!** In addition to a fine selection of wares, *The Union General* sells our three hard cover books and the *Clarkston Country Store* sells our full color afghans and also our new bumper sticker and window cling. So the next time you drive *slowly* down Main Street stop in, say HI! and **BUY!**



*Our new bumper sticker and window cling (shown above) are now available at the Clarkston Country Store for \$3.*



**BOARD MEETINGS**  
*are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7 until 9 PM at the Clarkston Heritage Museum in the Independence Township Library.*



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